



**Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton**

Diane Rehfield to: hphipps, fmecham, darnold, bgibson, ahill,  
lcompton

11/05/2015 04:15 PM

Cc: rhedges

I write to you as both the pastor at the Atascadero United Methodist Church, and a licensed Marriage, Family, and Child Therapist. For 10 years before going into the ministry I maintained a private practice in counseling for individuals, couples and families. I am a resident of Atascadero.

In both my work as a pastor and as a therapist I have had the opportunity to visit members of my congregation, and my counseling clients, in facilities such as the one proposed in Templeton. At no time have I felt afraid in these facilities, and all of the ones I have visited were located near family residential areas. Because the proposed facility is for voluntary patients who have health insurance, the fears that people have expressed, such as that "homeless people who are talking to themselves will be scooped up from Monterey to Ventura and dumped in Templeton" are entirely unfounded. Patients will be the children, youth, adults, and senior citizens who live in our communities, and suffer from a great variety of mental illness, including things like depression and eating disorders.

Statistics tell us that about 1 in 4 people will suffer from a mental illness at some point in their lives. They won't all need to be hospitalized, but I assure you that most of us know someone who has been or will need to be hospitalized sometime in the near future. Because of the stigma attached to mental illness, most people just don't tell you that it has happened to them. But mental illness is a disorder of an organ, just as congestive heart failure, diabetes, and cancer are disorders of various bodily organs. Mental illness happens to affect the brain.

Because this facility will not take people who are being involuntarily committed, there is no need to fear that people will "get out" and wander around Templeton. These are people who want to be there, are paying to be there, and will go back to their homes in our communities when it is time to leave. They are not dangerous people. If they were, they would be assessed and transferred to another facility that does accept people who are a danger to themselves or others.

When I lived in Southern California, I had occasion to visit several people who were hospitalized in the Del Amo Hospital in Torrance. It was located right next to the Torrance Memorial Hospital, just as the proposed facility in Templeton would be near Twin Cities. This makes for a great deal of ease in helping people get the comprehensive treatment they need. Del Amo was also located quite near a residential area, which was not a problem. It was wonderful that the patient's family members, friends, therapists, and ministers could all give daily support as needed, which is essential in helping people to get well. As a pastor in Atascadero, I have had to travel to Ventura to visit a member of my congregation who was hospitalized there. It is a full day endeavor to get there, visit, and return. I don't know how people with jobs and children living here could possibly go daily to see their loved one. I can't imagine how isolating and depressing it would be for the patients who are already suffering emotional discomfort, who then have to be isolated from family, friends, and pastors who want to support them, but cannot get there to see them on a regular basis.

I am convinced that treatment when needed can do wonders for a person. I don't worry about people who have a mental illness and are being treated for it. I do worry about people who need treatment who are not receiving it. For

some people, the distance between here and the nearest hospitals will mean they just don't get the treatment they need. If this was happening to heart patients, we would be outraged.

I encourage you to make a decision for the health of many in our communities who need this treatment, and for the health of the communities at large, who can only benefit when people who are suffering an illness can be treated and helped to live whole and healthy lives.

Sincerely,

Diane Wood Rehfield, Pastor  
Atascadero United Methodist Church  
(805) 466-2566



**Rev. Heather J. Branton**

Juliane Hendricks to: Holly Phipps, Jennifer Caffee

11/05/2015 04:19 PM

Dear Ms. Phipps

Attached you will find a letter from Rev. Branton regarding the Mental Health Facility in Templeton



Rev. Heather J Branton Letter.pdf

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks  
Administrative Assistant III  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Board of Supervisors / Administration  
1055 Monterey Street, Room D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781 - 5011

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October 24, 2015

SLO Planning Commission

SLO Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo Ca

Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital and Memory Care Facility

As a Family Nurse Practitioner, who has worked at Atascadero State Hospital (ASH) and at the county's Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) for over 20 years, I urge you to approve the proposed project.

There is an urgent need for a private volunteer mental health hospital in our County. The stories and travails of family members who must travel long distances to visit and support loved ones in far away facilities is heart wrenching. Mental "illness" is just that, a brain disorder, not unlike other organ diseases such as diabetes, and heart disease, but these are treated without the stigma attached.

The unfounded fears and prejudices of many uninformed Templeton residents are shocking in this day and age. In a study of crimes committed by people with serious mental disorders, only 7.5 percent were directly related to symptoms of mental illness, according to new research published by the American Psychological Association. (*Law and Human Behavior*, online April 15, 2014. )

The vast majority of people with mental illness are not violent, not criminal and not dangerous. They are not the clients committed involuntarily to Atascadero State Hospital.

Many of the clients in crisis who are evaluated and admitted to the County PHF initially under penal code 5150, as a danger to themselves, others or gravely disabled do become voluntary clients after a short period of stabilization. They may still feel the need to be in a supportive, structured, and safe environment. Thus, those with private insurance could then have the option of being transferred to the Templeton hospital rather than having to decide to go home or go out of the county for further care.

Tom Comar, Vice-President of the Central Coast Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants (identification only) [tcomar@ccnppa.org](mailto:tcomar@ccnppa.org)



5850 Rosario Avenue \* Atascadero, CA 93422

AtascaderoUCC@gmail.com \* AtascaderoUCC.org  
805.466.9108

Date: 25 October 2015

RECEIVED

NOV - 4 2015

To: Ms. Debbie Arnold  
District 5 County Supervisor

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Dear Ms. Arnold,

I write in support of the Templeton 90-bed behavioral health hospital. There is huge need in SLO County, as many as 138 for the current population. The Templeton facility would go a long way in meeting our current need. And the facts that the location is already zoned for medical and hospital use and centrally located for Atascadero and Paso Robles, as well as that the behavioral health hospital will have proximity to Twin Cities Hospital and other medical facilities, make this the best possible location.

I understand that there are some people who are fearful of having a mental health facility near them. But imagine how much healthier – and safer – we would be as a community if there was health care and support locally available? We assume it's about other people – outsiders, strangers, "crazies". But it is our families – our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters, and ourselves. Having a local mental health facility makes as much sense – and is as needed – as having a hospital that can help us with other acute emergencies such as strokes and broken legs.

Please decide in favor of the behavioral health hospital as planned in Templeton: we have the need, the location is right.

Thank you.

Rev. Heather J. Branton, pastor  
Community Church of Atascadero, United Church of Christ  
5850 Rosario Ave.  
Atascadero, CA 93422

**From:** [Deborah Green](#)  
**Reply To:** [Deborah Green](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Mental Health Care  
**Date:** 11/03/2015 08:13 PM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,

Deborah H. Green



**Fw: Templeton Health Facility Needs Community Support!**

Frank Mecham to: Vicki Shelby  
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

10/21/2015 12:11 PM

Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 10/21/2015 12:11 PM -----

From: Tim Waag <timwaag@gmail.com>  
To: "Lichtig, Katie" <klichtig@slocity.org>, "Laurel Weir (lweir@co.slo.ca.us)" <lweir@co.slo.ca.us>, "Hermann, Greg" <GHermann@slocity.org>, "Corey, Tyler" <tcorey@slocity.org>, "Staley, Chris" <cstaley@slocity.org>, Carlyn Christianson <cchristianson@slocity.org>, Jan Marx <jmarx@slocity.org>, Ashbaugh John <jashbaugh@slocity.org>, Dan Carpenter <dcarpenter@slocity.org>, Dan Rivoire <drivoire@slocity.org>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, Lynn Compton <jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us>, Grace McIntosh <gmcintosh@capslo.org>, "Johnson, Derek" <djohnson@slocity.org>, Becky Jorgeson <beckyrjorgeson@yahoo.com>, Bravo Debbie & Rene <rstamps@charter.net>  
Date: 10/21/2015 12:10 PM  
Subject: Templeton Health Facility Needs Community Support!

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A proposed 91 bed mental health hospital in Templeton is being strongly opposed. IMO, we need to support more local health services. You can read more about it in the Tribune [by clicking here](http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/06/27/3699422_on-proposed-mental-health-facility.html?rh=1).  
[http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/06/27/3699422\\_on-proposed-mental-health-facility.html?rh=1](http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/06/27/3699422_on-proposed-mental-health-facility.html?rh=1)

We want to stop suicides and mass killings, but don't want a health facility that helps to prevent them (among other things). What's the matter with us?

IMO, once again, NIMBYism is destroying what is needed for the "common good". Currently there is only a single 16 bed mental health facility to serve the entire county of San Luis Obispo. However, if you have private insurance, like most do in SLO County, then you cannot use that facility. It's only for the low income on Medi-Cal and the like. Instead, you have to travel out of county. Because of this, many may be skipping mental health services altogether...that can't be healthy, can it?

Read more here:

<http://timwaagblog.blogspot.com/2015/10/local-templeton-residents-oppose-needed.html>

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Tim Waag  
home (805) 544-2109  
cell (805) 440-9144  
work (805) 783-2300  
email: [WaagDiver@gmail.com](mailto:WaagDiver@gmail.com) (general)  
email: [BeveridgeFlyer@gmail.com](mailto:BeveridgeFlyer@gmail.com) (trips)  
email: [SalineValleySaltTram@gmail.com](mailto:SalineValleySaltTram@gmail.com) (salt tram)



October 6, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

**Re: Increased Access to Inpatient Psychiatric Services in San Luis Obispo County**

On behalf of CenCal Health, I am writing in support of increasing access to inpatient psychiatric services in our service area. We are aware of the proposed San Luis Obispo County Mental Health Facility in Templeton, CA.

Our organization is the Medi-Cal Managed Care plan for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties and arranges for health care services by contracting with local providers. Our mission is to improve the health and wellness of the people on the Central Coast. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we now serve one in five residents of San Luis Obispo County.

Last year, CenCal Health began arranging for mild to moderate mental health care services and coordinates with the County of San Luis Obispo's Public Health Department, who arrange for mental health services for those with severe mental health conditions. Often, Medi-Cal members are treated over 100 miles away because of the lack of available inpatient psychiatric beds in our service area. This challenges CenCal Health's ability to coordinate care between behavioral and physical health providers here locally where patients and their families reside.

Behavioral health access is essential to improvements in health care outcomes, especially in a time of crisis when inpatient behavioral health services are imperative and specifically for the underserved in our community. For these reasons, I write in support of efforts to increase inpatient psychiatric services on the Central Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Freeman", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert S. Freeman  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

4050 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
1288 Morro St., Suite 100 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
805.685.9525 Toll Free 800.421.2560 CenCalHealth.org

October 19, 2015

EACH SUPERVISOR  
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OCT 21 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Supervisor Frank Mecham  
County Government Center  
Room D-430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Supervisor Mecham

I request your favorable decision on approval of the mental health facility to be located in Templeton according to the proposed plan.

1. A significant part of our population will be affected
2. It will mitigate the suffering of those needing this service.
3. The County's present system is very costly, as well as unsatisfactory.

Some living in the immediate area are concerned about the effect on their way of life. I worked in the 16-bed inpatient psychiatric facility in SLO. I am unaware of any difficulty or complaints from the neighborhood.

Doris M. Ray  
2101 Rambouillet  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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OCT 20 2015

EACH SUPERVISOR  
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Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

10/18/2015

Mr. Frank Mecham  
SLO County First District Supervisor  
Room D-430  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Supervisor Mecham:

I am writing in support of the planned mental health facility in Templeton. The planned facility represents a truly unique opportunity to increase dramatically services for those effected with mental illness. An opportunity of this type does not present itself frequently and should be seized.

Services for the mentally ill are woefully inadequate in general and particularly in northern San Luis Obispo County. Having an in-patient treatment option in the North County will mean that those affected by this tragic, stigmatized disease can be treated near their family support systems. The crisis faced by the patients and their families when short-term hospitalization is needed will not be made worse by a forced separation.

I believe that the applicants have been prudent to site the planned facility near other medical facilities in an area that is zoned for such purposes. Several specious arguments have been raised about "danger" and the "family neighborhood". As noted above the proposed location is zoned for and near medical facilities and there is no data to support the purported danger.

By seizing the opportunity to enable local in-patient care, San Luis Obispo County, under your stewardship, will become a leader in providing mental health services to its citizens.

I strongly support the facility and encourage your positive support.

Yours Truly



Ronald Helgersen

9539 Carmel Road  
Atascadero, CA 93422

October 21, 2015

SLO Planning Commission  
SLO Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo Ca

Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

I live in Atascadero and am in favor of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital. As many families have, I, as well, have experienced the trauma of a loved one suffering with mental health issues. My family member was lucky to live in an area with mental health facilities near by to accommodate their needs. I cannot imagine having a loved one with issues having to travel out of town for services and visits by supporters. A person suffering the ills of mental health has a critical need for their support system at hand.

Mental health issues are medical issues, yet they carry a stigma in our society which discriminates against them for access to services. People with mental health problems say that the social stigma attached to mental ill health and the discrimination they experience can make their difficulties worse and make it harder to recover.

Most people who experience mental health problems recover fully, or are able to live with and manage them, especially if they get help early on.

With one in six people experiencing mental ill health at any one time, it is inexcusable that their needs are "so comprehensively neglected and ignored."

The failure to provide treatment and supportive services to people with mental illness – both in the community and in hospitals – has overburdened emergency rooms, crowded state and local jails and left untreated patients to fend for themselves on city streets.

The USA routinely fails to provide the most basic services for people with mental illness -- something the country would never tolerate for patients with cancer or other physical disorders.

I would be proud for our neighboring community to have the access of a Behavioral health Hospital in Templeton.

Sincerely,

Lee Perkins  
5525 Cascabel Rd.  
Atascadero CA 93422

K. Asdel  
8355 San Francisco Ave,  
Atascadero, CA 93422

10/31/15

Mr. Meacham:

I have been very concerned for some time that we have no treatment center in our county for the members of our communities who become mentally ill. I support the proposed Templeton Behavioral Health Facility. It would benefit those experiencing mental illness, their families and the rest of the community. Please seriously consider approving the establishing of this center.

Respectfully Kothie Asdel  
30 years in SLOCo a mental health provider

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2015

just a note

PLANNING & BUILDING

Dear Bruce Johnson

Thursday Oct. 21, 2015

I am writing in support of the Templeton Behavioral & Mental Health Facility, because I believe it is so important & is badly needed.

I have listened to the stories of young people who have been taken hundreds of miles away from home in order to be treated for a bipolar disorder or depression. This only makes their treatment & recovery take longer. Last year over 300 people were taken from S.L. County to Santa Barbara or north to Santa Rosa for treatment, causing a hardship for patient & family members & more stress. We can do better! So let's do it!

Sincerely,  
Gloria Smith  
5350 Venado Ave.  
Atascadero Ca.  
93422



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.  
Fighting for Air





just a note

Thursday Oct. 21, 2015

Dear Frank Meacham,

I am writing in support of the Templeton Behavioral Mental Health facility, because it is so important & is badly needed.

I have heard the stories of young people who have to be taken hundreds of miles away from home in order to be treated for bipolar disorder, or depression.

This only makes their recovery take longer.

Last year, over 300 people in San Luis Obispo County were taken to Santa Barbara or north to Santa Rosa for treatment. We can do better! So let's do it!

Sincerely,

Gloria Smith



5250 Vena Rd. #1  
Atascadero Ca. 93422

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.  
Fighting for Air





just a note

Dear Debbie Arnold, October 21, 2015

I am writing in support of the Simploton Behavioral & Mental Health Facility, because I believe it is so important to our county & is badly needed.

After listening to the stories of young people who had to be taken hundreds of miles away from home in order to be treated for bipolar disorder or depression, thus causing further stress for them & their families, I realize what a hardship it is for them & their families who love them.

And this only makes their treatment & recovery take even longer.

Last year, over 300 people had to be taken either to Santa Barbara or to Santa Rosa for treatment; both are 4-5 hour drive, causing more stress. We can do better, let's do it!



Sincerely,

Gloria G. Smith  
5250 Venado Ave.  
Alexandria  
Ca 93422

FY14-CSCS-LGNP

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION  
Fighting for Air



just a note

Dear Adam Hill, Oct. 21, 2015

I am writing in support of the Templeton Behavioral & Mental Health Facility, because I believe it is so important to our County & is badly needed.

I have listened to the stories of young people who have been taken hundreds of miles away from home in order to be treated for bipolar disorder or depression.

This only makes their treatment & recovery take longer.

Last year over 300 people had to be taken from L.O. County to Santa Barbara or north to Santa Rosa for treatment, causing a hardship for the patients & their family members, who are already stressed out.

We can do better, so let's do it!



Sincerely, Gloria L. Smith  
85250 Venado Ave.  
Atascadero, Ca. 93422

FY14-CSCS-LGNP

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION  
Fighting for Air



RECEIVED

OCT 29 2015

10/25/15

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Debbie Arnold

Room D-430

County Government Center

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Ms. Arnold,

I'm writing in support of the 90 Bed behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton, across from Twin Cities Hospital.

I moved to this county over a year ago and was shocked - and appalled - to discover the lack of mental health care available. When my son needed hospitalization 20 years ago I was able to visit him daily at a local hospital with mental health services. Other families deserve the same experience.

This is a facility for people with health insurance - not vagrants, not drug users, but contributing members of society. People with jobs, homes, and children in our schools.

Thank you for listening.

Jeanne Miller  
Atascadero

8385 Alta Vista Ave  
Atascadero, CA 93422

SANTA

28 OCT 2015

DEBBIE

Dear Ms. Arnold,

This is a letter of support for the proposed  
Mental Health Facility in Templeton.

The needs are great for additional beds  
for those in our County who suffer from  
Mental Illness. Willingness to open our  
hearts and provide treatment for these folks  
will also reduce the stigma of mental  
health for these folks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wonna Etter

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Wonna Etter  
8120 Aqueduct Ave  
Crescenta, CA 93422

SANTA BARBARA  
CA 931

28 OCT 2015 PM 2 L



Rebbie Arnold, Supervisor

Room D-430  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



Dear Mrs Arnold

I feel we need the Mental  
Health Hospital to be built  
in Templeton.

This is a problem not  
covered by our present  
facilities

Virginia Carsley  
1215 Camens del Roble  
Atascadero, Ca

Mr Frank Mechum

Dear Sir;

As a senior I was  
drawn to the beauty of  
Pace Robles.

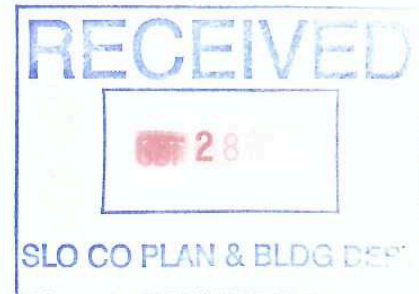
I have become aware  
of the many seniors chop  
out of sight with dipusior  
and unable to get local  
assistance.

Please support the  
Tempeton facility - our  
large senior population  
needs your support.

Joe Kynaster

County Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

October 21, 2015



Dear Planning Commissioners,

Enclosed are several petitions that have been signed by county residents in favor of the proposed Templeton Behavioral Health Facility, which you will be considering soon. They were gathered at two meetings: 1) a monthly meeting of Access for All, a non-profit organization that advocates for full inclusion for people with disabilities, and 2) a public meeting held at Atascadero United Methodist Church on October 14<sup>th</sup>, at which several speakers shared their own experiences with mental illness and the lack of available resources for treatment in our county.

The latter was an interesting and welcome meeting, and was clearly appreciated by those speakers who felt supported, rather than feared, by audience members. As one who attended the first community meeting regarding this issue in Templeton over a year ago, I remember well the dismay I felt at the name-calling and hostility exhibited by people who opposed the facility, primarily because they did not want "criminal elements" in their backyard.

There has since been a concerted attempt to reduce peoples' fears about the intent and operations of the hospital, and the resulting publications ("Let's be Informed about the Issues", "Let's Review the Facts")\*, along with the recent 4-part series by Tanya Strickland which ran in the Tribune two weeks ago, have been informative.

My husband and I would like to urge you to approve this facility. Mental illness has long been stigmatized. The hostility and fear exhibited by residents who don't want mental health care in their backyard explains why people with mental health issues want to stay hidden and are afraid to disclose their problems and ask for the help that could improve their lives. The majority of people with mental illness are not violent or dangerous, and many who have been successfully diagnosed and treated live productively among us. Would we deny others the opportunity to receive effective care and treatment because we don't want to share our good fortune?

The proposed facility is a wonderful idea, designed to offer care to children, adolescents, adults and geriatric patients; it would be located appropriately among the medical offices that already exist, to allow for collaboration and convenient cross-referrals. We have the choice of saying "yes" to helping our neighbors and welcoming mental health advances, or saying "no, we are a community that only cares about ourselves."

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Christine & John Parker-Kennedy

*Christine Parker-Kennedy* *John M. Parker-Kennedy*  
\*publications enclosed

## Let's be informed about the issues regarding the Behavioral Health Hospital proposed in Templeton

### The Hospital

- The Behavioral Health Hospital (Hospital) will provide private, acute, mental health care treatment to children, adolescents, adults, seniors and veterans who are your friends, neighbors and/or family members currently living in our community.
- This is a secure facility where patients will receive treatment for common behavioral health issues such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. The Hospital is not a forensic facility; a forensic facility treats criminals.
- When a patient is discharged, they must be returned to their residence of origin where they will receive continued treatment from their regular physician or transferred to a long term facility. They will not be released onto the streets of Templeton.

### Our School District

- The Hospital will not adversely impact Templeton Unified School District's (TUSD) budget. If a child is admitted from outside TUSD's boundaries, the CEO of Vizion Health has offered to enter into a contract with TUSD to cover the cost for students who reside outside of TUSD.

### Compliance with Templeton Community Design Plan

- **Office and Professional Zoning:** The project is located in Templeton in the area designated as the regional medical center by the Templeton Community Design Plan not in a residential area; it is located across the street from Twin Cities Community Hospital.
- **Parking:** The Hospital and the Memory Care/Assisted Living Facility are located on separate parcels but share a common access driveway, interior circulation and parking area. Templeton's Community Design Plan encourages shared parking.
- **Toad Creek:** The Hospital and the Assisted Living Facility buildings are sited outside the sensitive riparian areas. They are stepped in elevation to blend with the existing sloping topography creating a gradual transition between the proposed building areas and the riparian areas. Additionally, the riparian area will be enhanced through the project's landscaping since it will be an integral view shed to the Assisted Living Facility's wandering garden courtyard.

### Size of the proposed Hospital

- According to the California Hospital Association Study, a county should have a minimum of 50 psychiatric beds per 100,000 population. This means that our county should have a minimum of 136 beds. The proposed Hospital accommodates 90 beds and is similar in size to Vineyard Hills Skilled Nursing Home which has 99 beds.

### Patients

- Veterans will be admitted under the new VA Choice Program and Tricare and through private insurance. Children, adolescents and seniors will be accepted under MediCal. Federal law prohibits adults from being accepted under MediCal.

### **Petition's Facts Sheet**

1. The Behavioral Health Hospital (Hospital) will provide acute psychiatric healthcare treatment to children, adolescents, adults, seniors and veterans who are your friends, neighbors and/or family members currently living in our community.
2. Patients are referred by their physician or psychologist, similar to a regular hospital; this is a secure facility where patients will receive treatment for common behavioral health issues such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. The Hospital is not a forensic facility; a forensic facility treats criminals.
3. The project is located in Templeton in the area designated as the regional medical center by the Templeton Community Design Plan not in a residential area; it is located across the street from Twin Cities Community Hospital.
4. When a patient is discharged, they must be returned to their residence of origin; they will not be released onto the streets of Templeton. The patient will be released to family members or friends or provided with travel service to their residence of origin.
5. The Hospital will not adversely impact Templeton Unified School District's (TUSD) budget. If a child is admitted from outside TUSD's boundaries, the California Department of Education Hospital Instruction Program mandates that the school receive funding for the instruction of the student from the state's general fund budget on an average daily attendance; this is exactly the same criteria as a non-hospitalized student.
6. According to the California Hospital Association Study, a county should have a minimum of 50 psychiatric beds per 100,000 population. This means that our county should have a minimum of 136 beds. The proposed Hospital accommodates 90 beds.
7. Veterans will be admitted under the new VA Choice Program and Tricare and through private insurance. Children, adolescents and seniors will be accepted under Medical. Federal law prohibits adults from being accepted under MediCal.
8. Last year, the County's Behavioral Health Department referred 350 patients for treatment to facilities outside our county; this number does not include patients referred by private professionals. Obtaining treatment outside our county creates a huge burden on our residents and their families. Our County needs to provide local mental health services for their residents.
9. The proposed Hospital complies with the Templeton Community Design Plan, the County's Land Use Ordinance, the County's Economic Element, the County's North Area/Salinas River Plan. An independent traffic study was performed and the project's projected traffic does not exceed the limits of Las Tablas Road; the study was reviewed and approved by the County's Public Work's Department.
10. The creation of this state-of-the-art behavioral health hospital will be a tremendous benefit in bringing much needed new jobs to our area. The Hospital will employ approximately 200 professionals and vocational workers. Establishment of this Hospital, in coordination with the other existing medical facilities and services available in the regional medical center, will enable our mental health patients to receive optimum, coordinated, and integrated medical treatment

Please return to: P.O. Box 1414, Carmel,  
 Ca. 93921 C/o Melanie Billig or fax to  
 831/626-3826 or email to hbillig@sbc  
 9global.net

### Petition in Support of the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

We, the undersigned, strongly support the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital (Hospital) and Memory Care Facility located in the north county regional medical center in Templeton. This project complies with county zoning and land use, the county's economic element, and the Templeton Community Design Plan.

The Hospital will treat children, adolescents, adults, seniors and veterans currently living in our community. Last year, the County's Behavioral Health Department referred 350 patients for treatment to facilities outside our county; this number does not include patients referred by private professionals. Obtaining treatment outside our county creates a huge burden on our residents and their families. Our County needs to provide local mental health services for their residents.

Establishment of this Hospital, in coordination with the other existing medical facilities and services available in the regional medical center, will enable our mental health patients to receive optimum, coordinated, and integrated medical treatment.

We ask the Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors to approve the Behavioral Health Hospital and the Memory Care Facility. Thank you.

Print Name

Signature

Address

Judith Carey	<i>[Signature]</i>	5015 El Verano Atascadero
Judith Magonacelaya	<i>[Signature]</i>	5400 Piedras Altas Atascadero
Judith Magonacelaya	<i>[Signature]</i>	93422
DONNA ETIER	<i>[Signature]</i>	8120 Ayucena Atasc. 93422
Don Helgeson, R.N.	<i>[Signature]</i>	9539 Counsel Road Atascadero
Michele Reed	<i>[Signature]</i>	P.O. Box 157 Templeton
Laurie Schunt	<i>[Signature]</i>	1045 Los Angeles
DAVIS SNOW	<i>[Signature]</i>	2301 GUNTER WOOD RD, PR 93446
Frances Carpenter	<i>[Signature]</i>	1220 Bennett Way SP 71 Templeton CA

### Petition in Support of the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

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Print Name

Signature

Address

Tracey Arnold	<i>Tracey Arnold</i>	7125 Sunset Ysmael #2 Atasc. 93422
Mary Ellen Cole	<i>Mary Ellen Cole</i>	4949 Meadowlark Ln Paso 93446
Jeremy Wells	<i>Jeremy Wells</i>	9327 Musselman Dr. Atasc. 93422
Pam Zweifel	<i>Pam Zweifel</i>	1218 VISTA DR Lugo 93405 93405
Richard Zweifel	<i>Richard Zweifel</i>	" " " "
Doris M. Ray	<i>Doris M. Ray</i>	2101 RAMBOUILLET, P. R.
Monique Goodman	<i>Monique Goodman</i>	9361 Bocina Lane, E. Atasc. 93447
Bruce Bevans	<i>Bruce Bevans</i>	10675 Readio Ave, Atasc.
Tom Connor	<i>Tom Connor</i>	5525 CAGLE BLVD ATAS
Royce Lapp	<i>Royce Lapp</i>	3075 Falda Rd, Atascadero CA 93422

Please return to: P.O. Box 1414, Carmel,  
 Ca. 93921 C/o Melanie Billig or fax to  
 831/626-3826 or email to [rbillig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbillig@sbcglobal.net)

### Petition in Support of the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

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Print Name

Signature

Address

Jennie Williams	Jennie Williams	6370 Santa Cruz	Atascadero CA 93422
Sue Galbreath Sly	Sue Galbreath-Sly	10720 San Marcos	Atas.
Joe Ann Bruzzo	Jellina Bruzzo	3252 Via Arroyo	Atascadero 93422
Janet Morales	Janet Morales	5355 Palma Ave #A	Atascadero 93422
Shirley Summers	[Signature]	8120 Azucena Ave	Atascadero CA 93422
Maggie Fertschneider	Maggie Fertschneider	7600 Santee Hwy	Atascadero, CA 93422

### Petition in Support of the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

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We ask the Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors to approve the Behavioral Health Hospital and the Memory Care Facility. Thank you.

Print Name	Signature	Address
PAUL M. WOLFF	Paul M. Wolff	C.P. PROF. EHERJTUS 3128 SPRING CT. SLO, 93401 190 Kern Ave.
Ruth Vaseoncellos	Ruth Vasconcellos	Morro Bay, CA. 93442 3100 Main St. #8
Laura DeLoye	Laura DeLoye	Morro Bay, CA 93442
Beverly Gingg	Beverly Gingg	680 Skyline Dr. San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 1193 17th St
Juan Chandle	SUSAN Chandler	LOS OSOS CA 93402
Bryan Gingg	Bryan Gingg	680 Skyline Dr. San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
Bonita L. Hewitt	Bonita L. Hewitt	2480 Starling Dr. Paso Robles, CA 93446
Thomas J. Hewitt	Thomas J. Hewitt	2480 Starling Drive Paso Robles, Calif. 93446

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

OCT 29 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Frank Mecklen  
Room D-430, County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408

Sir:

I support the construction of the proposed mental health facility in Templeton. It is designed to meet acute care psychiatric healthcare needs of San Luis Obispo County. There will be short-term crisis care and professional treatment providing comprehensive services. It would provide treatment for children, adults, and seniors, adolescents with separate units for the different age groups. It also takes private pay insurance.

This facility would be consistent with the General Plan and zoned for ~~stop~~ medical / hospital use. We have a huge need for this facility and the location is ideal.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Hamilton

P.S. I personally know a young man in the juvenile system who could really benefit from a facility such as this.

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the  
90 bed behavioral health hospital proposed  
to be built across the street from Twin  
Cities hospital in Tempepton. Counseling  
and guidance has certainly helped me  
and my family in the past. Thank  
you very much

Sincerely

Paul Mitchell

1660 San Ardo

Atascadero, Ca 93422

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

October 27, 2015

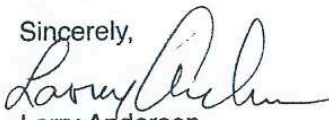
SLO County Supervisor Debbie Arnold  
Room D-430  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

I am writing in support of the proposed mental health hospital on Las Tablas Road in Templeton. I became aware of the appalling lack of infrastructure and support for mental health care in this county when a friend recently required those emergency services. The nearest available bed was in Santa Barbara, and the family was financially stressed to find affordable lodging or to make the many trips required to provide the support needed for this individual.

We have many people in this county in need of a mental health hospital, and the Las Tablas Road site is a good fit with the many other medical facilities in the area. I urge you to vote in favor of this project.

Sincerely,



Larry Anderson  
8580 Corriente Rd.  
Atascadero, CA 93422

Oct 26, 2015

Dear Ms. Arnold,

I just wanted you to know that I lost my husband to suicide 6 years ago. I was unaware of how depressed he was.

If mental health issues had been publicized then as they are now, ~~perhaps~~ his death would have been avoided.

I fully support the building of a county mental health facility in Templeton and hope you to do the same.

Thank you,

Judy Wulff

Judy Wulff

6185 Conejo Rd

Atascadero, CA 93422

SANTA BARBARA

CA 931

OCT 2015 PM 2 L

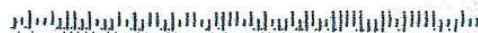


Debbie Arnold

Rm D-430

Cnty Gov Center

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



October 25, 2015

Dear Frank Mechem -

I am writing in support of  
the 90 bed behavioral health  
hospital near Twin Cities Hospital  
in Templeton.

I have lived through over  
30 days in a mental hospital  
after 30 years of depression.  
If I had sought help earlier  
I would have had a better  
life and been more involved in  
activities in meaningful  
ways.

I know first-hand how  
important this facility will  
be for many.

Sincerely & respectfully,

Cathy K. Q.

October 25, 2015

Debbie Arnold  
District 5  
County Supervisor

Dear Debbie,

I am writing to show support of the proposed 90-bed behavioral health hospital proposed to be built near the Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton.

There is a very strong need for these services in our county. Many people are suffering from mental illness and clinical depression in our county. Currently there is very limited assistance for them and places for them to go.

I urge you to support this facility for the help it will bring our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet K. Morales

Janet K. Morales  
5366 Palma Ave, #A.  
Atascadero, CA 93422

SANTA BARBARA  
CA 931  
30 OCT 2015 PM 2 T



N 11. N 11

I believe we need a County  
Mental Health Facility in  
Templeton.

I have lived in this County  
for over 40 years and support  
a behavioral health hospital  
in the North County.

Please support this facility

Carolyn Fitcher

4660 San Luis

Atascadero, CA 93422

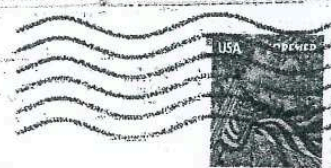
4660 San Luis

Atascadero, CA 93422

SANTA BARBARA

CA 931

30 OCT 2015 PM 2 L



Rebbie Arnold  
Rm D-430 County Gov. Center  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

This is to let you  
 know that I support  
 the 90 bed behavioral  
 health hospital that  
 is proposed to be built  
 in Templeton. I  
 have a cousin who  
 experiences severe depressions  
 and I know how it affects  
 not only him but everyone  
 who cares about him.  
 He is a kind, gentle  
 soul and would benefit  
 from a place like this.

Marsha Robbins

Marsha Robbins

6600 Santa Ynez

Atascadero, CA 93422

30 OCT 2015 PM 3:1

Debbie Arnold  
 Room D-430  
 County Government Center  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 934

Dear Debbie Arnold

I am writing in  
support of the 90  
bed behavioral health  
hospital proposed to be  
built across the  
street from Twin Cities  
in Temple -

There is a young  
person that we know.  
He is only 16. He is  
bipolar. He would not  
benefit from such a  
place.

I would like to add that  
the grounds and building  
must look like a hospital.

Make the outdoors  
welcoming. The indoors  
warm.

Sincerely,  
Mr & Mrs Martin Kellgamer

Mr & Mrs Kellgamer  
5463 Honda  
Atascadero,  
Calif -  
93422

SANTA BARBARA CA 931

30 OCT 2015 PM 3 L

Debbie Arnold  
Room - D-430

8005 El Retiro Ave.  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
October 25, 2015

Dear Mrs. Arnold,

I am writing in support of the  
proposed behavioral health hospital  
to be built in Templeton,

It is important that options  
for treatment be available locally.  
It would be so helpful for both  
those in need of services and for  
their families, who would (and  
now) have to travel great distances  
and incur considerable expenses for  
needed services.

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OCT 29 2015

Sincerely,  
Myra Douglass  
Myra Douglass

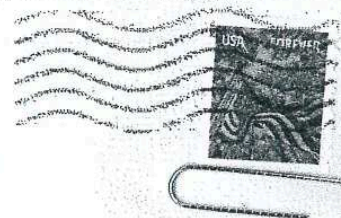
Board of Supervisors

Myra Douglass  
8005 El Retiro Ave.  
Atascadero, CA 93422

SANTA BARBARA

CA 931

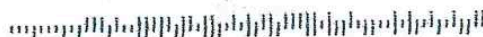
25 OCT 2015 PM 2:17



Debbie Arnold

Rm. D-430

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



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OCT 29 2015

Dear Debbie

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

It is my wish you would vote to support the 90 bed Lemoore Health Hospital proposed far to be built across from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton.

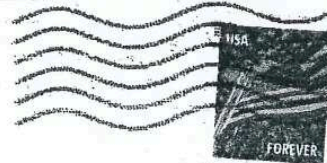
I know some people are afraid it will bring more mentally ill people into the area, but those people are already here. They say 1 in 4 people have some kind of mental illness. Many of my friends have suffered depression & have children with all sorts of mental problems.

I do think <sup>that</sup> hospital is necessary.

Respectfully  
Jois Romero

9141 Palomar Ave  
Atascadero CA  
93422

SANTA BARBARA  
CA 931  
28 OCT 2015 PM 2 L



Debbie Arnold  
Room D-430  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo  
California 93408

Hello,

I just wanted to write to personally  
support the mental health hospital to  
be built in Templeton.

I believe that we do need to support  
our community members in this way

Sincerely,

Robert J. Kosman  
Atascadero

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

RECEIVED

EACH SUPERVISOR  
RECEIVED COPY

OCT 23 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

21 October 2015

7640 Atascadero Ave

Atascadero CA 93422

Frank Meham

District 1 Supervisor -

I urge you to support any and all efforts to develop the Templeton Behavioral Health facility. It is criminal that in a county this large we don't have the means to help families with mental health issues, forcing even more stresses on them by traveling so far to get help, or worse, forgoing the help they can't get to. I would much rather know that my neighbors have options for treatment nearby. It is the untreated neighbors we should worry about, not a locked facility in an established medical community.

Mary Weaver Meagher

October 24, 2015

SLO Planning Commission

SLO Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo Ca

Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital and Memory Care Facility

As a Family Nurse Practitioner, who has worked at Atascadero State Hospital (ASH) and at the county's Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) for over 20 years, I urge you to approve the proposed project.

There is an urgent need for a private volunteer mental health hospital in our County. The stories and travails of family members who must travel long distances to visit and support love ones in far away facilities is heart wrenching. Mental "illness" is just that, a brain disorder, not unlike other organ diseases such as diabetes, and heart disease, but these are treated without the stigma attached.

The unfounded fears and prejudices of many uninformed Templeton residents are shocking in this day and age. In a study of crimes committed by people with serious mental disorders, only 7.5 percent were directly related to symptoms of mental illness, according to new research published by the American Psychological Association. (*Law and Human Behavior*, online April 15, 2014. )

The vast majority of people with mental illness are not violent, not criminal and not dangerous. They are not the clients committed involuntarily to Atascadero State Hospital.

Many of the clients in crisis who are evaluated and admitted to the County PHF initially under penal code 5150, as a danger to themselves, others or gravely disabled do become voluntary clients after a short period of stabilization. They may still feel the need to be in a supportive, structured, and safe environment. Thus, those with private insurance could then have the option of being transferred to the Templeton hospital rather than having to decide to go home or go out of the county for further care.

Tom Comar, Vice-President of the Central Coast Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants (identification only) [tcomar@ccnppa.org](mailto:tcomar@ccnppa.org)

10/23/15

Dear Debbie -

As you know I came to  
Atascadero to work at the  
State Hospital as an Art Therapist.  
During the 25 years I worked at  
the Hospital, I became a Lic.  
Marriage + Family Therapist.  
I have maintained a private  
practice working with  
mentally ill clients. In  
addition I have been on the  
board of ECHE from its beginning  
and also worked for Wilshire  
Community Services providing  
counseling services to Seniors  
in North County. I have been  
very aware of the need for a facility  
like the one proposed at Templeton  
to provide Behavioral Health  
service in our County.  
Please seriously consider  
approving the development

of The Temptation Behavioral Health Facility as soon as possible. When a client needs inpatient & out patient treatment, they need to be close to their support systems to recover from the symptoms of mental illness.

Respectfully,

Kathleen (Kathie) Asdel

MS. LMFT

Asdel Arts and Counseling Center

7730 Marro Road #109

Atascadero, CA 93422

Dear Councilwoman Arnold.

I was at my limit of anxiety, pain and incompassionate. There is no medicare coverage for mental health illness. In a desperate move my wife Sally enrolled me at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara. They got me on the right medicine in two days and in 4 days released a fairly sound thankful person. How fortunate I am to find relief in Santa Barbara County. San Luis needs a similar institute.

Fred S Thomson

RECEIVED

Ms. Sally S. Thomson  
7455 Bella Vista Rd.  
Atascadero, CA 93422-3831

SANTA BARBARA  
CA 931

OCT 27 2015 PM 2 T



OCT 27 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Debbie Arnold

Room D-430

Co, Court Ctr

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



Oct. 26th, 2015

Dear Debbie,

I am writing in support  
of the 90 bed behavioral  
health hospital proposed to be  
built across the street from  
Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton.  
This will be very helpful  
for the people in this area.

Thank you,  
Marlene Pearce  
Calif. Manor  
Atascadero

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2015

Board of Supervisors

Marlene Pearce  
Calif. Manor  
Apt. 154  
Atascadero, Calif. 91342

SANTA BARBARA  
CA 931

26 OCT 2015 PM 2 L



Debbie Arnold  
Room D-430  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, Calif. 9408

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County



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EACH SUPERVISOR  
RECEIVED COPY

OCT 22 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

7640 Atascadero Ave.  
Atascadero CA 93422  
21 October 2015

Debbie Arnold  
District 5

I urge you to support any and all efforts to develop the Templeton Behavioral Health facility. It is criminal that in a county this large we don't have the means to help families with mental health issues, forcing even more stresses on them by traveling so far to get help, or worse, forgoing the help they can't get to. I would much rather know that my neighbors have options for treatments nearby. It is the untreated neighbors we should worry about, not a locked facility in an established medical community.

Mary Weaver Meagher

Oct 25, 2015

Dear Ms. Arnold,

From personal experience I know the importance of short term mental health treatment. A few weeks of hospitalization stabilized me when I had post-partum depression. My bipolar daughter has needed several periods of short-term in-patient support. My husband was helped greatly to recover from acute anxiety + depression, but he needed 5 days at Cottage Hospital since there was no local facility.

Please support the proposed SLO County Mental Health facility in Templeton. The location near Twin Cities Hospital is ideal and we need it. The only thing to fear about those with mental health issues is if they have a crisis that goes untreated.

Thank you for your compassionate, thoughtful response to this important community opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sally L. Thomson

7455 Bella Vista

Atascadero, CA 93422

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County



10/18/2015

Mr. Jim Harrison  
SLO County North District Planning Commissioner  
SLO Planning & Building Department  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Commissioner Harrison:

I am writing in support of the planned mental health facility in Templeton. The planned facility represents a truly unique opportunity to increase dramatically services for those effected with mental illness. An opportunity of this type does not present itself frequently and should be seized.

Services for the mentally ill are woefully inadequate in general and particularly in northern San Luis Obispo County. Having an in-patient treatment option in the North County will mean that those affected by this tragic, stigmatized disease can be treated near their family support systems. The crisis faced by the patients and their families when short-term hospitalization is needed will not be made worse by a forced separation.

I believe that the applicants have been prudent to site the planned facility near other medical facilities in an area that is zoned for such purposes. Several specious arguments have been raised about "danger" and the "family neighborhood". As noted above the proposed location is zoned for and near medical facilities and there is no data to support the purported danger.

By seizing the opportunity to enable local in-patient care, San Luis Obispo County, under your stewardship, will become a leader in providing mental health services to its citizens.

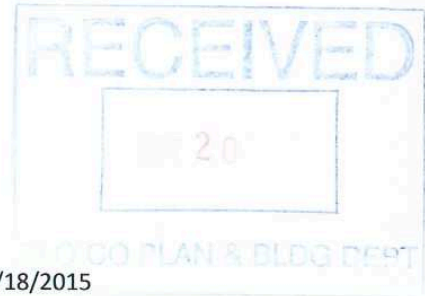
I strongly support the facility and encourage your positive support.

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron. Helgersen", followed by a horizontal line.

Ronald Helgersen

9539 Carmel Road  
Atascadero, CA 93422



Mr. Eric Myer  
SLO County Third District Planning Commissioner  
SLO Planning & Building Department  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

10/18/2015

Dear Commissioner Meyer:

I am writing in support of the planned mental health facility in Templeton. The planned facility represents a truly unique opportunity to increase dramatically services for those effected with mental illness. An opportunity of this type does not present itself frequently and should be seized.

Services for the mentally ill are woefully inadequate in general and particularly in northern San Luis Obispo County. Having an in-patient treatment option in the North County will mean that those affected by this tragic, stigmatized disease can be treated near their family support systems. The crisis faced by the patients and their families when short-term hospitalization is needed will not be made worse by a forced separation.

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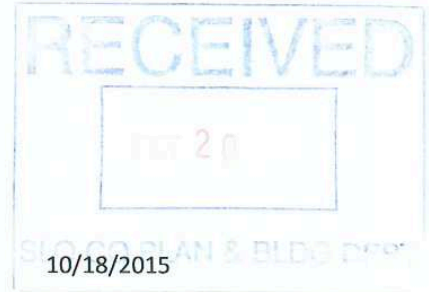
I strongly support the facility and encourage your positive support.

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Helgersen".

Ronald Helgersen

9539 Carmel Road  
Atascadero, CA 93422



Mr. Don Campbell  
SLO County Fifth District Planning Commissioner  
SLO Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street, #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Commissioner Campbell:

I am writing in support of the planned mental health facility in Templeton. The planned facility represents a truly unique opportunity to increase dramatically services for those effected with mental illness. An opportunity of this type does not present itself frequently and should be seized.

Services for the mentally ill are woefully inadequate in general and particularly in northern San Luis Obispo County. Having an in-patient treatment option in the North County will mean that those affected by this tragic, stigmatized disease can be treated near their family support systems. The crisis faced by the patients and their families when short-term hospitalization is needed will not be made worse by a forced separation.

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I strongly support the facility and encourage your positive support.

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Helgerson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ronald Helgerson

9539 Carmel Road  
Atascadero, CA 93422



Mr. Jim Irving  
SLO County First District Planning Commissioner  
SLO Planning & Building Department  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

10/18/2015

Dear Commissioner Irving:

I am writing in support of the planned mental health facility in Templeton. The planned facility represents a truly unique opportunity to increase dramatically services for those effected with mental illness. An opportunity of this type does not present itself frequently and should be seized.

Services for the mentally ill are woefully inadequate in general and particularly in northern San Luis Obispo County. Having an in-patient treatment option in the North County will mean that those affected by this tragic, stigmatized disease can be treated near their family support systems. The crisis faced by the patients and their families when short-term hospitalization is needed will not be made worse by a forced separation.

I believe that the applicants have been prudent to site the planned facility near other medical facilities in an area that is zoned for such purposes. Several specious arguments have been raised about "danger" and the "family neighborhood". As noted above the proposed location is zoned for and near medical facilities and there is no data to support the purported danger.

By seizing the opportunity to enable local in-patient care, San Luis Obispo County, under your stewardship, will become a leader in providing mental health services to its citizens.

I strongly support the facility and encourage your positive support.

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Helgersen", written over a horizontal line.

Ronald Helgersen

9539 Carmel Road  
Atascadero, CA 93422

Mr. Ken Topping  
SLO County Second District Planning Commissioner  
SLO Planning & Building Department  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

10/18/2015



Dear Commissioner Topping:

I am writing in support of the planned mental health facility in Templeton. The planned facility represents a truly unique opportunity to increase dramatically services for those effected with mental illness. An opportunity of this type does not present itself frequently and should be seized.

Services for the mentally ill are woefully inadequate in general and particularly in northern San Luis Obispo County. Having an in-patient treatment option in the North County will mean that those affected by this tragic, stigmatized disease can be treated near their family support systems. The crisis faced by the patients and their families when short-term hospitalization is needed will not be made worse by a forced separation.

I believe that the applicants have been prudent to site the planned facility near other medical facilities in an area that is zoned for such purposes. Several specious arguments have been raised about "danger" and the "family neighborhood". As noted above the proposed location is zoned for and near medical facilities and there is no data to support the purported danger.

By seizing the opportunity to enable local in-patient care, San Luis Obispo County, under your stewardship, will become a leader in providing mental health services to its citizens.

I strongly support the facility and encourage your positive support.

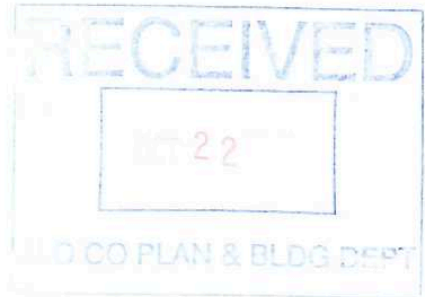
Yours Truly

Ronald Helgersen

9539 Carmel Road  
Atascadero, CA 93422

October 20, 2015

County Planning & Building Dept.  
 976 Osos Street #200  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
 Attn: Ma Holly Phipps #300



I heartily request your approval of the new mental health facility to be located in Templeton for these reasons:

- 1) A significant part of our population will be favorably affected.
- 2) It will greatly decrease the suffering of those needing these services.
- 3) The County's present system is costly, as well as unsatisfactory.
- 4) Location adjacent to an acute care hospital is ideal.

I understand some who live in the immediate area are concerned about its effect on their way of life. I worked in the 16-bed psychiatric facility in SLO. I am unaware of any difficulty or complaint from the neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Doris M. Ray  
 2101 Rambouillet  
 Paso Robles, CA 93446

805-237-1828

RECEIVED

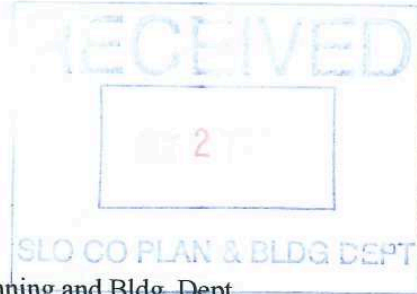
OCT 26 2015

PLANNING &amp; BUILDING

10/23/15

Members of the County Planning  
and Building Department:

I am writing to you in support of  
the Templeton Behavioral Health  
Facility. I came to SLO County  
in 1985 to work as an Art Therapist  
at Atascadero State Hospital. During  
the 25 years I worked at the Hospital,  
I became a Licensed Marriage +  
Family Therapist and have  
maintained a private practice  
working with many clients  
who would have benefited  
greatly from both inpatient  
and outpatient services  
provided by this Facility in  
our County. When a client  
needs to be hospitalized, the  
closest placements are in



8455 Santa Rosa Rd.  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
Oct. 25, 2015

SLO County Planning and Bldg. Dept.  
976 ~~De~~jos St., #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn. Holly Phipps, Room 300

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Can you imagine having a child with mental issues acting up and needing attention ASAP and then having to drive to Fresno or Santa Barbara with this child ? It wouldn't have to be this way if we could get a Mental Health Hospital in our area.

We have the unique opportunity to have this facility close by if the County Planning and Building Department will rule favorably on this proposal. All the planning shows that it is a viable and popular idea except for a few who feel threatened by the words "behavioral, mental illness, psychiatric health care" .

For myself I would feel safer and certainly sympathetic to the would be patients if such a facility were to be built. I hope you can help to move in a favorable way to get it done.

Let's show our love and concern for those who are so in need of better mental health care.

Sincerely,

  
Rosemary Dexter

Nov 15, 2014

LETTER OF CONCERN

I own residential property in Templeton. My young grandkids attend TES and TMS and walk home past the Templeton Hospital most every day. The proposal to build a Psychiatric Facility across from the hospital is very disturbing.

The potential for troubled patients to be released or checkout by themselves and wander around Templeton is scary. The challenges to law enforcement and the fire department are great. And considering that this facility may import patients from far away, makes the potential even greater for the police to be called to handle a variety of disturbances when relatives are not close by.

I urge you to deny this proposed Psychiatric Facility.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas H. Athey



July 31, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, California 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

RECEIVED

AUG 04 2015

PLANNING & BUILDING

RE: Proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

I am the parent of a child with mental illness. I have been a resident of Templeton for 14 years. My child has been hospitalized twice during that time. The first time he was sent to West Covina, the second time he was sent to Sacramento. Out of my reach when he needed family support the most.

In other times of need he has been either kept for a day or two or simply sent home because of lack of space in the San Luis Obispo facility.

Scare tactics, misinformation and stigmatization of those with a mental illness have proliferated the conversation regarding this proposed and much needed facility.

From 2000 until the time of her death in 2007 I also cared for my mother who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. The proposed Alzheimer's unit is also sorely needed in this county. I was lucky that my mother had Long Term Care insurance and we were able to afford in-home caregivers. Many are not so lucky. As the population ages, the need for Alzheimer's care will only increase.

I hope that the Planning Commission will understand the desperate need for this facility and disregard the misinformation and misconceptions that are fueling the opposition to this facility.

Sincerely,



J.L. Blake

Templeton Resident

8-3-15

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

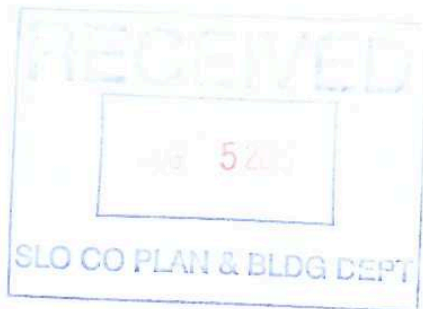
I am writing in support of the proposed behavioral health hospital in Templeton. There is a desperate need for such a hospital in San Luis Obispo County. There is no facility of this kind in SLO County and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the care they need.

In 2014 I had a personal experience with the mental health industry in San Luis Obispo County and it was not pleasant. Nothing was available here in SLO County, so my loved one had to go to Calabasas California for 6 weeks of inpatient treatment. It was very difficult for everyone involved, emotionally and financially having her so far away. If SLO County had a behavioral health hospital at that time it would have made a huge difference in her recovery. We could have visited her more frequently, had better contact with her treatment team, been on top of her treatment better, and it wouldn't have cost us so much in travel expenses.

I wonder if the opposition to this hospital has experienced the mental health industry in SLO County, I doubt it or why would they oppose it. While a person is inpatient they also need medical care. This hospital would be located perfectly, near all the medical facilities in Templeton.

Please do everything you can to help this hospital get built!!!!

Sincerely  
Ron Belben  
810 Crazy Horse Drive  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
805 286-4250



October 19, 2015

Supervisor Debbie Arnold  
 Room D-430  
 County Government Center  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2015

Board of Supervisors  
 San Luis Obispo County

Dear Chairman Arnold:

I request your approval of the new mental health facility to be located in Templeton, for these reasons:

- 1) A significant part of our population will be affected favorably.
- 2) It will greatly decrease the suffering of those needing this service.
- 3) The County's present system is costly, as well as unsatisfactory.
- 4) Location adjacent to an acute care hospital is ideal.

I understand some living in the immediate area are concerned about the effect on their way of life. I worked in the 16-bed psychiatric facility in SLO. I am unaware of any difficulty or complaint from the neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Doris M. Ray  
 2101 Rambouillet  
 Paso Robles, CA 93446

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

October 25, 2015

Frank Mechem

Room D-430

County Government Center

SLO, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Mechem,

I am writing in support of the  
90-bed behavioral health hospital  
proposed to be built in Templeton.

My daughter was fortunate enough  
to be treated at French Hospital  
~~from~~ 1990-1992 in their inpatient  
psychiatric unit. I understand that unit  
no longer exists, and my concern is for  
all those people with insurance who  
needs short-term crisis intervention  
and stabilization in a safe facility.

Martha Stein

RECEIVED

Dear Councilman Meckam,

I'm not completely familiar with what is available in our county for mental health treatment. If this new Templeton hospital makes help available to more people who need it, I think it's a good idea.

My father, who has passed, was a prominent member of the community, but suffered from depression, which drastically affected his behavior & held him back from more positive interactions. He never sought treatment. I hope this facility could help more people feel it's OK to get help.

Thank you!

10/25/15

Debbie Arnold

Room D-4-30

County Government Center

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Debbie,

I feel the 90-bed behavioral health hospital proposed for Templeton is very much needed.

My daughter's best friend from high school, who became a successful high school teacher, was diagnosed as <sup>sp?</sup> schizrenic and took her own life a year ago leaving 2 daughters. She was a beautiful, talented person who needed more local help than she was able to get. Please help promote a local hospital.

Sincerely,

Kelma Sparling

Kelma Sparling

4905 Ardilla

Atascadero, CA 93422

D

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2015

October 25, 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Debbie Arnold

Room D-430

County Govt Center

SLO

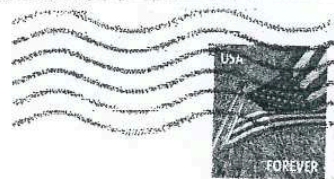
I am writing in support of the proposed mental health treatment facility in Templeton. I have a personal history of mental health issues in my immediate family and really appreciate the need for a nearby facility.

Richard L Ramont  
Atascadero

R Ramont  
9141 Palomar Ave  
Atascadero 93422

SANTA BARBARA  
CA 931

27 OCT 2015 PM 2 T



Debbie Arnold  
Room D-430  
County Govt Center  
SLO 93408

Debbie Arnold  
Room - D-430  
County Gov. Center  
560 CA 93408  
Dem Mrs. Arnold

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

We desperately need the  
psychiatric facility in Templeton.

It is just not true that these  
patients represent A valid  
risk to those in the community.

The Fear of those who are  
mentally ill is irrational.

Full Disclosure - I am a retired  
therapist who has provided therapy  
to mentally ill patients for decades,  
and have seen many cases of improvement  
and successful functioning.

It is pathetic to need to send patients  
out of the county for treatment.

Please support this facility.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dan Rich

ATAS CADERO, CA.

Dan Rich  
7500 Devon St  
ATAS CADERO

10/24/15

Dear Supervisor Arnold

I am writing in support of the inpatient mental health facility proposed for Templeton.

my experience as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker is that people needing inpatient treatment are often sent to out of county facilities thro removes them from all support systems that could be involved in their treatment and plans for stabilizing them.

It is important to care for the people within our community.

I urge your support of the facility located in Templeton.  
Thank you for your consideration  
Shirley Summuro, LCSW  
# LCS19562

9120 Azusa Ave  
Azusa CA 91702

Supervisor Diehl

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

10-25-15

Dear Ms. Arnold,

I am writing in support of the  
proposed Behavioral Health hospital proposed  
to be built across the street from Twin  
Cities Hospital in Templeton.

mental illness is a health issue  
which has affected all of us, either directly  
or indirectly. The proposed hospital  
would provide much needed  
help, encouragement and treatment  
for those in need of such services.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Whisenant

Sharon Whisenant  
PO Box 1081  
Atascadero, CA 93423

SANTA BARBARA

CA 931

27 OCT 2015 PM 2 T



Debbie Arnold, Dist. 5  
Room D-430  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, CA

93408



To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support  
of the 90 bed behavioral  
health hospital proposed to be  
built across the street from  
Swain Cline Hospital in  
Templeton.

I do not see the issues  
that I've heard about  
concerning where this facility  
would be built.

There is a great great need  
for this hospital. I have personal  
experience with mental illness  
and it would have been great to  
have this kind of support!

Sincerely and  
with hope!  
Brenda May

13700 Morro Rd SANTA BARBARA  
Atascadero, Ca 93422

Debbie  
C. ...

I am writing to support the behavioral health hospital proposed to be built across the street from Twin City Hospital in Templeton.

I myself, have suffered from bipolar Depression. It seems to be a thing passed through heredity. I don't know if you can help me, but I know there are legions of souls that have no place to go for help.

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

Thank You

Linda

LINDA FINISTER  
BOX 2292  
ATASCADERO CA 93423

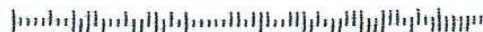
SANTA BARBARA

CA 931

OCT 28 2015 PM 2 T



Wesley Arnold  
Room D-430  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408



RECEIVED

OCT 28 2015

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo CountyOctober 25, 2015  
Atascadero, Ca.

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

We support the proposed SLO County Mental Health Facility in Templeton. We believe this will provide much needed services. This facility will directly help a relatively small portion of our population, and will indirectly serve us all.

We all benefit when our relatives, neighbors, and fellow citizens receive the care they need. Our nephew, now in his forties and having dealt with mental illness for twenty years, lives at home with his parents. A mental health facility in Templeton could be a vital resource for them, and for us all.

Thank you for your time and dedication to public service.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Bewley and Celia Bewley  
5530 Encino Av.  
Atascadero, Ca.

ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** Vicki Shelby  
**To:** Marianne Davis  
**Cc:** bgibson@co.slo.ca.us; ahill@co.slo.ca.us; hmiller@co.slo.ca.us; darnold@co.slo.ca.us; Holly Phipps  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Proposed Mental Health Facility in Templeton  
**Date:** 10/05/2015 10:18 AM

---

Dear Ms. Davis,

Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton. This matter will go to the Planning Commission first and I am forwarding your comments to the County Planner for inclusion into the record.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman  
Legislative Assistant for  
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham  
1055 Monterey St., D430  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408  
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess  
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

▼ Frank Mecham---10/05/2015 09:21:23 AM---Frank R. Mecham District 1 Supervisor

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO  
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings  
Date: 10/05/2015 09:21 AM  
Subject: Fw: Proposed Mental Health Facility in Templeton  
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

---

Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 10/05/2015 09:21 AM -----

From: Marianne Davis <mariannedavisphd@gmail.com>  
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us  
Cc: bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us, hmiller@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us

Date: 10/02/2015 11:36 AM  
Subject: Proposed Mental Health Facility in Templeton

---

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing this in support of the proposed mental health facility in Templeton. As a licensed psychologist who has worked extensively with the severely mentally ill I know how sorely needed such a facility is in our county. We have far too few mental health beds to serve the needs of our residents and far too many instances of residents unable to access the mental health services they need due to that lack of bed space.

I understand there is opposition to the proposal but believe that opposition is based on an emotional response rather than on sound science. Research has shown the mentally ill are no more prone to violence than the general population *unless they remain untreated and resort to self-medicating by abusing alcohol or drugs*. Rather than increasing the likelihood of violence or criminal behavior by opening a treatment facility in Templeton, having access to a good treatment program would result in a decrease in such behaviors.

The mentally ill deserve our help, not our condemnation. I urge you to support the opening of the new facility.

Sincerely,

Marianne G. Davis, Ph.D.  
Los Osos

**From:** Vicki Shelby  
**To:** [lakatherman@aol.com](mailto:lakatherman@aol.com)  
**Cc:** [Holly Phipps](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 10/05/2015 09:05 AM

---

Good Morning Mr. & Mrs. Katherman,

We appreciate your letter and comments on the proposed Behavioral health facility in Templeton. We are forwarding your letter to the County Planner handling this for inclusion of your letter into the record. This matter will go to the County Planning Commission first, and at this time we don't know the date of that meeting.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman  
Legislative Assistant for  
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham  
1055 Monterey St., D430  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408  
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: [vshelby@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:vshelby@co.slo.ca.us)

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess  
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

▼ Frank Mecham---10/01/2015 10:03:20 AM---Frank R. Mecham District 1 Supervisor

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO  
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings  
Date: 10/01/2015 10:03 AM  
Subject: Fw: Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

---

Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

[FMecham@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:FMecham@co.slo.ca.us)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 10/01/2015 10:03 AM -----

From: [lakatherman@aol.com](mailto:lakatherman@aol.com)  
To: [lakatherman@aol.com](mailto:lakatherman@aol.com)

## ATTACHMENT 10

Date: 09/30/2015 08:23 PM  
Subject: Re: Behavioal Health Hospital in Templeton

---

lakatherman@aol.com  
Lisa Katherman

-----Original Message-----

From: lakatherman <lakatherman@aol.com>  
To: lakatherman <lakatherman@aol.com>  
Sent: Mon, Sep 21, 2015 11:38 am  
Subject: Behavioal Health Hospital in Templeton

Dear Supervisor:

We are writing this letter asking for your support in the project to build a behavioral health hospital in Templeton. This hospital is urgently needed in our community. There is no psychiatric ward on the central coast and forces those seeking acute mental health treatment to travel out of our county. We know, our family has first hand experience trying to help our son when he needed inpatient psychiatric treatment. When a family is seeking help for their loved one, they are most often in crisis mode, needing help close by, not wanting to travel far, keeping things in order at home, when their lives may be turned upside down and feeling a state of chaos. We are sorely needing more psychiatric beds in California in general. We are sure you are aware of the statistics of a minimum 50 psychiatric beds per 100,000 population. This means our county should have 136 beds and the proposed hospital accommodates 90 beds. Our experience here in San Luis Obispo forced us to look both in northern and southern California, where we still had to call and hunt for a bed for our son. The time traveling, cost and emotional toll it took traveling out of the area was very hard on our entire family, as well as our son being transferred to a foreign city when he certainly was not at his best.

Our story has a happy ending. After receiving psychiatric care and two hospitalization to get him stabilized, our son is living well with his mental illness, going back to school, living independently and has his life back on track. We believe this occurred and will only occur for others needing the same mental health treatment, in a psychiatric hospital

setting, which our county so desperately needs.

Please vote in favor of this much needed project.

Sincerely, Lisa and Charlie Katherman, Shell Beach

[lkatherman@aol.com](mailto:lkatherman@aol.com)

Lisa Katherman

Sergio Toledo, M.D. and Kristianne Toledo, Ph.D.  
1570 Shiloh Place, Templeton, CA 93465  
(805) 221-5676

October 9, 2015

Frank Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
San Luis Obispo County

Dear Mr. Mecham,

We are writing this letter in opposition to the building of an inpatient behavioral health facility in Templeton, California. First, we both have worked many years with the psychiatric population in both inpatient and outpatient settings. We understand the need for behavioral health facilities in our county and the need for increased awareness and acceptance of mental disorders. However, we do not believe that the town of Templeton, population 7,700, is the proper location for such a facility of that size.

We have lived together throughout California, from San Diego to Los Angeles to Santa Clarita to Goleta to Lompoc to Atascadero to Templeton to Palo Alto. We have lived in relatively small towns to sprawling cities. One of the things we most admire about living in San Luis Obispo County is the commitment you have to growing slowly and wisely. We firsthand witnessed the population and housing explosion in San Diego in the late 90's early 2000's. We saw the impact of growing too much too fast has on a community, its infrastructure, and its morale. As inhabitants of Templeton, we wish not to witness again firsthand the mistakes of the past being repeated here in our own backyard.

Twin Cities Hospital is a wonderful example of the proper way to approach growth. It has grown as a hospital, has expanded its facilities, and has increased its personnel all in proportional response to the increase in demand from the community. We fully expect it to continue to grow and evolve in order to best serve the community. As of now, Twin Cities is a 122 bed hospital. However, even at half capacity (when the census reaches 60 beds), it is considered very busy with its current staffing. It is often difficult to recruit physicians to this area, partially due to lack of medicine training facilities in the area (Marion Regional Medical Center being the closest Family Medicine residency training program to us, and often residents continue to practice in areas close to where they completed their residency or medical school training).

There is a dire need for psychiatric facilities in our county. However, the building of a 96-bed inpatient behavioral health facility in a town with a population under 10,000 would be a major mistake. Concentrating your acute inpatient psychiatric needs in one location would be like focusing beams of sunlight through a magnifying glass onto a single location. What would happen? Combustion. A much more viable proposition would be to build multiple, smaller inpatient locations throughout the county, including one in Templeton, with a smaller number of beds (about 10-20 each). This structure would better serve all areas of our county and be in line with our community's commitment to smart and sustainable growth.

Thank you for your time and openness to our letter. Our thoughts will be with you as you consider all options and we wish you strength and peace.

Warm regards,

Sergio Toledo, M.D.  
Hospitalist, Internal Medicine  
Governing Board Member  
Twin Cities Community Hospital

Kristianne Toledo, Ph.D.  
Behavioral Neuroscientist  
Lecturer  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

October 19, 2015

SLO County Planning Commission  
976 Osos St, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Templeton mental health care facility, 1155 Las Tablas Rd, Templeton

Chair Topping, Honorable Commissioners:

We are blessed to have raised three wonderful children, all now grown, happy and contributing members of society.

Fifteen years ago however we found ourselves in crisis. Our daughter was diagnosed with severe depression with psychotic overtones. Her lifelong pediatrician, her psychiatrist, her school team and her family agreed that she needed residential care for her own safety.

We made the tragically wrong assumption that we'd find help close by; that our daughter would have a chance to regain mental health near to her family; that we'd be able to maintain at a least modified work schedule; that our youngest child would have some consistency in home life. That's when we learned that no local options for care exist.

In wealthy, compassionate San Luis Obispo County we were completely lost.

Fortunately for our daughter we found the path to mental health at St. Mary's Hospital at UC San Francisco.

There we left our child in a secure facility with superb doctors and therapists....and made the 250 mile trip back to SLO to care for our youngest.

On three separate crisis-induced hospital stays over the next 2 years we'd make the twice a week trip from SLO to San Francisco to stand with our daughter and coordinate her treatment.

Fortunately we had the (stretched) resources, the understanding bosses, and the supportive SLO and SF friends that made our daughter's out-of-town treatment possible.

We hope that few families will ever know the intolerable burden of seeking local services for their loved one and finding nothing.

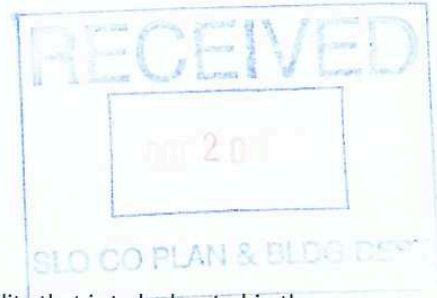
The proposed Templeton psychiatric facility is a critical part of our county's medical infrastructure for all of our families. Authorize it now.

Sandi Sigurdson  
Steve McGrath  
665 Buchon St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

16 Oct 2015

April 21, 2015

SLO County Planning and Building Dept.  
 976 Osos Street, #200  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
 Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300



I am absolutely opposed to the proposed large-scale psychiatric health facility that is to be located in the residential area of Templeton.

The proposed facility would be located blocks from my home. As a 90 year-old woman, living alone, I would fear for my safety and would no longer feel secure in my own home.

In addition to safety concerns, I am concerned about the affect such a high-volume facility for mental patients would have on nearby homes, parks, schools, traffic, and property values.

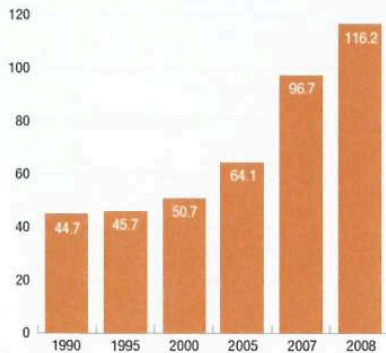
Templeton has a small force of law officers, a volunteer fire department and no social services or infrastructure to support such patients.

I came to live in Templeton to enjoy the small town ambience; the safety and security afforded by a town supporting a population of 7,700 and the peace of mind one should be able to enjoy in their "golden years". The addition of 3,250 to 6,500 mental health patients, not to mention the family or friends that may visit, cycling through each year will destroy the town of Templeton as we have known it and rob each of its citizens of the safety, security and enjoyment they grew up with or purposely moved here to enjoy.

I have no doubt that many of the residents of Templeton, will seriously contemplate leaving the area if this project is approved. I include myself in this group.

Atascadero has had a mental health hospital since 1954. Violence is on the rise at the hospital, and according to state and federal documents, it's gotten worse since 2006 — the same year the state signed an agreement with the federal government to put in a detailed new treatment plan. The new treatment plan was supposed to make things better but violence has risen at three of the four hospitals covered by the treatment plan. At Atascadero, it's gone up 36 percent.

Aggressive incidents per 100 patients



Source: Report for U.S. Justice Department; California Department of Mental Health  
 Credit: Alyson Hurt/NPR

I realize a "treatment facility" differs from a mental health hospital, but not by much. The only thing that separates one patient from the other is one violent crime. Mental health patients are an inherently dangerous population, capable of violence at any time. How will this county protect the employees of this treatment facility? How will the county protect the citizens of this town?

If a mental health treatment facility is really needed, why would it not be located within a city that has shown it can cope with the needs and obligations of such a facility? Atascadero may be a better location for the proposed construction. Templeton certainly isn't prepared or financially capable of handling the burdens that will result from the population of mental health patients and their families.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Ball  
385 Elizabeth Court  
Templeton, CA 93465

Cc: TAAG, [dclarue air@yahoo.com](mailto:dclarueair@yahoo.com)  
Frank Mecham, [fmecham@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:fmecham@co.slo.ca.us)  
Debbie Arnold, [darnold@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:darnold@co.slo.ca.us)

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Debbie Arnold](#)  
**Sent By:** [Jennifer Caffee](#)  
**To:** [Holly Phipps](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Acute need for Behavioral Health hospital  
**Date:** 09/23/2015 11:14 AM

---

FYI

**Debbie Arnold**  
Supervisor, 5th District  
San Luis Obispo County  
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 09/23/2015 11:14 AM -----

From: "Signa Schmidt" <signacares@charter.net>  
To: <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 09/22/2015 04:10 PM  
Subject: Acute need for Behavioral Health hospital

---

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

My name is Signa Schmidt, I have had the privilege of meeting you a couple times. What is on my mind currently is the need our county has for a Behavioral Health Hospital. I have worked as a Registered Nurse for 41 years, 20 of these years for SLO County. I helped open Twin Cities Hospital when our local hospital closed. The same negative issues and warnings were being promoted at that time about the prospect of a new hospital. In many ways it is human nature to fight change. In this era however we know the progress we have made in Mental Health, Addictive Health, Heart health and every other system of health. We have many fine hospitals in our area but we are sorely lacking in the Mental Health field. We have no inpatient beds for a county of more than 133,000 people. This is not the standard of care we deserve for our county.

Presently we have a perfect area in Templeton where the land is available and the people who design Behavioral health facilities are ready to build. The location is ideal completing the existing acute and long term health care facilities. In my opinion it would be a mistake to abort this opportunity simply to pacify a few people who are against any kind of progress. My hope is that as a community we can move forward to build such a facility before that opportunity expires. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Signa Schmidt, RN retired

**From:** Vicki Shelby  
**To:** [mkap926@aol.com](mailto:mkap926@aol.com)  
**Cc:** Holly Phipps  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital  
**Date:** 09/21/2015 11:25 AM

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Mr. Kaplan,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. We are forwarding your letter to the County Planning handling this project so that it will be included in the Planning Commission record, as it will go to the Commission before it comes to the Board of Supervisors.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman  
Legislative Assistant for  
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham  
1055 Monterey St., D430  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408  
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: [vshelby@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:vshelby@co.slo.ca.us)

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess  
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

▼ Frank Mecham---09/21/2015 11:19:15 AM---Frank R. Mecham District 1 Supervisor

**From:** Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO  
**To:** Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings  
**Date:** 09/21/2015 11:19 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital  
**Sent by:** Vicki Shelby

---

Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

[FMecham@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:FMecham@co.slo.ca.us)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 09/21/2015 11:19 AM -----

From: Michael Kaplan <mkap926@aol.com>  
To: Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 09/18/2015 11:08 AM  
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

---

Hello,

I am writing to make my support known for the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital (BHH) in Templeton. The resources for men, women, and youth in this county who struggle with mental health challenges are stretched incredibly thin. The addition of 91 beds would be an absolute boon to our County. Many of us think that mental illness is what happens to OTHERS. When 1 in 5 Americans suffers from depression and mental illness, it always hits much closer to home than we expect. You only realize the resources are stretched thin when you need them RIGHT AWAY. Please help us make this project a reality.

Thank you.

Michael Kaplan

**From:** [Michael Kaplan](#)  
**To:** [Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us); [fmecham@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:fmecham@co.slo.ca.us); [darnold@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:darnold@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital  
**Date:** 09/18/2015 11:08 AM

---

Hello,

I am writing to make my support known for the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital (BHH) in Templeton. The resources for men, women, and youth in this county who struggle with mental health challenges are stretched incredibly thin. The addition of 91 beds would be an absolute boon to our County. Many of us think that mental illness is what happens to OTHERS. When 1 in 5 Americans suffers from depression and mental illness, it always hits much closer to home than we expect. You only realize the resources are stretched thin when you need them RIGHT AWAY. Please help us make this project a reality.

Thank you.

Michael Kaplan

**From:** Ramona Hedges  
**To:** Holly Phipps  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Templeton Mental Health Facility  
**Date:** 08/18/2015 03:11 PM

---

fyi below Holly.

---

Ramona Hedges, (805) 781-5612  
Records Management Supervisor  
Custodian of Records  
Planning Commission Secretary  
rhedges@co.slo.ca.us  
<http://www.sloplanning.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/SLOPlanning>  
<http://twitter.com/SLOCoPlanning>



----- Forwarded by Ramona Hedges/Planning/COSLO on 08/18/2015 03:11 PM -----

**From:** Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO  
**To:** Ramona Hedges/Planning/COSLO@Wings  
**Cc:** Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings  
**Date:** 08/18/2015 03:10 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Templeton Mental Health Facility  
**Sent by:** Jennifer Caffee

---

FYI.

**Debbie Arnold**  
Supervisor, 5th District  
San Luis Obispo County  
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 08/18/2015 02:07 PM -----

**From:** "charleen d. von gortler" <CvonGortler323@charter.net>  
**To:** darnold@co.slo.ca.us  
**Date:** 08/18/2015 11:57 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed Templeton Mental Health Facility

---

Dear Ms. Arnold,

I urge your support for the proposed Templeton mental health facility. As a parent of a mentally ill adult I am aware of our country's need for a continuum of treatment and support for this under-served population. I meet weekly in a family support group and each week we learn of new families who are in a state of crisis. Parents may have the name of a psychiatrist, they may even have a prescription, but they may need care in a dedicated facility until the illness stabilizes.

Emergency rooms are an expensive and inadequate alternative for our loved ones. My own daughter was sent clear to Ventura for stabilization and treatment after a suicide attempt. It was difficult for us as a family to have any part in her treatment so far away nor to visit and encourage her during her weeks there. Making a smooth transition back home to her regular psychiatrist had numerous communication glitches and delays.

These patients are not criminals. They are ill. They have done nothing to deserve these illnesses. They are parts of established county families. San Luis Obispo County is an enlightened community. We try always to meet the needs of our less fortunate members. When a much needed facility is offered to us at no cost to the county (other than the beds the county is currently paying for) WE SHOULD JUMP ON IT! This Templeton facility is beautifully situated in our county between our two largest cities. It may not serve ALL parts of the mental health continuum, but it fills a significant gap. I urge you to vote for its approval.

Yours truly,

Charleen Holmes von Gortler

**From:** Vicki Shelby  
**To:** CvonGortler323@charter.net  
**Cc:** Frank Mecham; Holly Phipps  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Proposed Templeton Facility  
**Date:** 08/18/2015 01:38 PM

---

Dear Charleen Holmes von Gortler,

Thank you for your email in support of the Behavioral Health facility in Templeton. This matter will go to the Planning Commission prior to the Board of Supervisors. We are forwarding it to the Planner for this project, this way she can let you know when the matter will be set for hearing before the Planning Commission and your letter will be part of the record.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman  
Legislative Assistant for  
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham  
1055 Monterey St., D430  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408  
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess  
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

▼ Frank Mecham---08/18/2015 01:34:48 PM---Frank R. Mecham District 1 Supervisor

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO  
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings  
Date: 08/18/2015 01:34 PM  
Subject: Fw: Proposed Templeton Facility  
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

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Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 08/18/2015 01:34 PM -----

From: "charleen d. von gortler" <CvonGortler323@charter.net>

## ATTACHMENT 10

To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 08/18/2015 11:26 AM  
Subject: Proposed Templeton Facility

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Dear Mr. Mecham,

I urge your support for the proposed Templeton mental health facility. As a parent of a mentally ill adult, I am aware of our county's need for a continuum of treatment and support for this underserved population. I meet weekly with a family support group, and each week we hear of family members who are struggling with mental health crises. We family members suffer too.

Emergency rooms are an expensive and inadequate alternative for this population. My own daughter was sent clear to Ventura for stabilization and treatment after a suicide attempt. It was nearly impossible for us as a family to have any part in her treatment so far away, nor to visit and encourage her during her weeks there. The transition back home is made more difficult as practitioners are unknown to one another and unfamiliar with more local supports. Can you imagine the difficulties of a child or a young adult being away from family at such a time?

We are an enlightened community and we are making strides to support many of our people who are less favored by nature. When a facility is offered to us in a well-placed location at no cost to our county government beyond what we are already paying for beds in other counties, WE SHOULD JUMP ON IT! This may not be the be-all or the end-all for the mentally ill...but it is a giant step.

Our mentally ill loved ones are members of established county families. Many will be able to return to ordered and productive lives if given appropriate treatment in a timely, more local setting. They are not criminals and they have done nothing to deserve their illnesses. Aren't they worthy of our best support through the toughest parts of their illnesses? We urge your positive vote on this worthy proposal.

Yours truly,

Charleen Holmes von Gortler

**From:** [marylynn\\_crandall](#)  
**Reply To:** [marylynn\\_crandall](#)  
**To:** [Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Asking for your support  
**Date:** 08/17/2015 11:36 AM

---

Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

I am writing in support of the 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed to be built across the street from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton.

I am the mother of a young adult who was diagnosed 4 years ago with severely disabling social anxiety. Initially, during a period of crisis, my husband and I received some much needed support through a local San Luis chapter of NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Health). Through that organization and another online support group, (Balanced Mind Foundation) I began to educate myself about mental illness and to hear people's stories of how their family's lives have been affected by mental illness. The lack of resources, especially hospital beds for very sick people in crisis, is often part of the story.

I understand that there is a lack of education, and a stigma against those living with mental illnesses, which is demonstrated here locally in the dissent against the development of this hospital. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love.

This situation offers you the opportunity in your position as a leader and decision maker in our community to educate others. Please advocate in any way you can to bring this much needed facility to our families and loved ones.

Thank you so much for any support that you can give.

Sincerely,  
Mary Lynn Crandall

**From:** [James Crandall](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Please support the hospital  
**Date:** 08/17/2015 11:36 AM

---

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,  
Jim Crandall

Sent from my iPad

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** Shirley  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** A hospital for loved ones  
**Date:** 08/17/2015 10:32 AM

---

Dear Mrs Phillips,  
I urge you to support the mental health hospital. I have a wonderful son that suffers from severe depression. He has been hospitalized in Santa Barbara and Calabases. Each time I travel many miles to support him in any way. I'm getting older and the travel is becoming more and more difficult for me.

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Cross  
Arroyo Grande  
805-489-6745  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ann Feeser](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Mental Health Hospital Proposal - please support!  
**Date:** 08/14/2015 12:18 PM

---

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

976 Osos Street #200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,

Ann Feeser

**From:** [Toni Mermer](#)  
**Reply To:** [Toni Mermer](#)  
**To:** [Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY IN TEMPLETON  
**Date:** 08/10/2015 03:44 PM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,

Bob and Toni Mermer  
Cayucos, CA  
[tmermer@att.net](mailto:tmermer@att.net)

**From:** [G Bunting](#)  
**Reply To:** [G Bunting](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** New Behavioral Health Facility in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/10/2015 08:27 AM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,

Gail Bunting  
PO Box 1892  
SLO, CA 93406  
[gbunting12@yahoo.com](mailto:gbunting12@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Tom Stein](#)  
**Sent By:** [tomstein@gmail.com](mailto:tomstein@gmail.com)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavior Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/09/2015 07:47 AM

---

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

976 Osos Street #200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in

our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in

Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect

many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is

imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and

one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you

will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of

mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but

only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services

will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much

needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar

hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved

ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county. I work with these people on a regular basis and can affirm how great the need is and how important this project is.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be

constructed.

Sincerely,

Thomas Stein

--

Tom Stein, MS, MFT  
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist MFC 48767  
Certified Life Coach  
[tom@tomstein-therapist.com](mailto:tom@tomstein-therapist.com)  
805-881-3136  
[206-600-1370](tel:206-600-1370) FAX

[www.tomstein-therapist.com](http://www.tomstein-therapist.com)

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*Do not forward this email without permission.*

**From:** [LEON PRESTON](#)  
**Reply To:** [LEON PRESTON](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/06/2015 02:51 PM

---

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
Attn: Holly Phipps

Dear Ms. Phipps:

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. There is no facility of this kind in our county and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the treatment they need.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime and will need to seek help. Those are pretty good odds that either you, or someone you know, will find themselves in need of such a facility at some point in their lifetime. Two years ago, my family experienced just such a situation where our 27 year old son, who had never before been treated or diagnosed with a mental illness, went through a severe manic depressive bi-polar episode. To say the least this was a very difficult period of time for us, not knowing what to do, how to proceed or where to go.

It is my hope that the group of people trying to stigmatize mental illnesses will find compassion in their hearts for those who have been or will be afflicted with a mental illness and get on board to support this much needed facility for our county.

Sincerely,

Carol Preston  
P.O. Box 3527  
Paso Robles, CA 93447  
(805) 237-1992

**From:** [Elia Domingo](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/05/2015 01:33 PM

---

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,  
Norma Domingo

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Glenna Edmondson](#)  
**To:** [Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Cc:** [John Klimala](#)  
**Subject:** behavioral health hospital  
**Date:** 08/03/2015 09:09 PM

---

Dear Ms. Phipps,

The proposed hospital to be built in Templeton is very badly needed in San Luis Obispo County. As the mother of a son who has struggled with bi-polar disorder for the past ten years, I know firsthand what it is to cope with the emotional turmoil that mental illness brings to an entire family. My son has been hospitalized several times in different cities -- San Francisco, Pasadena, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Mateo -- and on one particularly chaotic occasion, Ventura. He was taken to Ventura because there was no space for him in the San Luis Obispo hospital. He remained there eleven days, and even though he was still decidedly psychotic after that stay, he was released. There is too much to relate in one letter, but the disruption and trauma of a chronic illness like this is not a story unique to our family.

As a Family to Family teacher for NAMI, I hear the stories of many families who are suffering through the grief and shock of having a family member with a devastating mental illness. These families would be helped by the expansion of mental health services in our area. It is difficult enough to cope in these situations without having a relative shipped out of town. Often the people who need these services are young and desperately need family support as well as professional help. The new hospital would serve children and senior citizens as well as adolescents and young adults. Many of those needing services are military veterans.

The people who oppose the hospital may be ignorant of the population it would serve. Mental illness is widely misunderstood and feared, but it can occur in any family, and strike at any age. We need to provide care for those who need it most and it should be available within the county.

Please add my name to the list of those who support the building of the behavioral health hospital.

Glenna Edmondson  
6465 Cormorant Way  
Avila Beach, CA 93424-2586

(805) 709-7714  
[glennavedmondson@msn.com](mailto:glennavedmondson@msn.com)

**From:** [Christopher Taylor](#)  
**Sent By:** [muchiesusfreak@gmail.com](mailto:muchiesusfreak@gmail.com)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** YES for the Behavioral Health Hospital  
**Date:** 08/03/2015 07:58 PM

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Dear Ms. Holly Phipps,

My name is Christopher Taylor, and I am a 24 year-old UCSB alumni working here in SLO county. My home town is Paso Robles. This Behavioral Health Hospital sounds amazing, and would help my own family out in tremendous ways. Last November my sister Michaela, age 26, relapsed in her Schizophrenia. She's still struggling to deal with it now here in August. Both of my parents and I have agreed that while there were many factors that have attributed to her spiral of psychosis, a local avenue for immediate professional help and community would have turned the tide in her relapse.

Here in SLO, In-patient can only hold their clients for a maximum of 72-hours. We believe a solid 2-weeks of regular prescription and personal interaction would have set her on the right course. As it were, Michaela went in and out of In-patient 5-6 times over the course of a couple months, each time becoming worse. The longer boarding time of the Behavioral Health Hospital would have created a rhythm that Michaela could have carried with her for the hard months that came after.

And this is why I am emailing you, Ms. Holly Phipps, saying that I support the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton, right next to my home town.

Sincerely,  
-Christopher Taylor  
(805) 835-9226  
[christaylorIV@gmail.com](mailto:christaylorIV@gmail.com)  
1104 Via Mavis,  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

**From:** Kellie  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavioral health hospital  
**Date:** 08/03/2015 03:20 PM

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Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,

Kellie Reamer  
915 Felicia Way  
SLO, CA 93401



**From:** [Corinne Muriset](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Please support the behavior health hospital proposal in Templeton, CA  
**Date:** 08/03/2015 12:49 PM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

976 Osos Street #200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

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Sincerely,

Corinne Muriset

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*Corinne Muriset*

Real Estate Web Site Dev. & Management  
Internet Marketing / SEO SEM Consultant

(805) 541 5884 - Cell (805) 440 4269  
PO Box 2114 - Avila Beach, CA 93424  
[cmuriset@charter.net](mailto:cmuriset@charter.net)

**From:** [Karla Esquivel](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/03/2015 11:24 AM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,

Karla Esquivel  
404 Lawrence Dr  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
[kameragirl@gmail.com](mailto:kameragirl@gmail.com)

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Susan Huntley](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Mental Health Facility  
**Date:** 08/03/2015 08:29 AM

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Holly, I am writing to lend support to the need for a Mental Health Facility in SLO County. I know no one wants it in their backyard, but near other medical facilities in Templeton seems to be a good fit. If this site is not chosen I ask that you continue to pursue a much needed facility until it becomes a reality. I have worked with ECHO Homeless Shelter for a number of years and been personally affected by Mental Health issues within my own family and know the need for services in our area. Thank you for undertaking this task. Sue Huntley

**From:** [joelmedinger@aol.com](mailto:joelmedinger@aol.com)  
**To:** [hphipp@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipp@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Cc:** [joelmedinger@aol.com](mailto:joelmedinger@aol.com); [sherriemedfab@aol.com](mailto:sherriemedfab@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Proposed behavioral health hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/02/2015 09:16 PM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
Attention: Holly Phillips

Dear Ms. Phillips,

I'm writing this to ask you to please support the proposed state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital in Templeton. There are so many powerful positive reasons to approve of the project: the help in will give to people of all ages in crisis, creation of new mental health professional jobs, the ability of patients in SLO County to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment.

Please do not ignore the facts that there are currently only 16 beds in our county for the seriously mentally ill. And these beds are only for adults. As a result, every year hundreds of people have to go several hundred miles for treatment. This also puts an additional emotional and financial burden on the patients and their families.

This is a subject very dear to my family. At the age of thirteen and the beginning of serious mental illness (which thank God has been treated and is under control), my stepdaughter was forced to have inpatient treatment in Ventura. To have her so far away, and to have to make the drive while being so afraid for her life was an added stress we wouldn't wish on any family. It might extra time off work and difficulty being fully involved in her care. She also ended up having treatment at UCLA and Stanford. All while living in San Luis Obispo.

My wife is very involved with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and helps teach the Family to Family classes. If you are not familiar with these, they are classes for the families of those with mental illness. My wife tells me she has heard many, many, many stories such as ours. Our family was able to handle the added financial expense for travel but many families are not and are forced out of visiting with their loved ones at their most fragile times.

As the owners of this proposed facility are willing to build it, and it's zoned for this use, it makes sense for the county to allow these much needed service to come to our county. There are far too many unserved and underserved children, adolescents and seniors in our county who desperately need these services.

Feel free to call me if you would like to talk to me personally, or contact me in any way convenient for you.

Thank you so much for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Joel Medinger

1608 Garnette Drive  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
[Joelmedinger@aol.com](mailto:Joelmedinger@aol.com)  
(805) 704-6628

**From:** [Rita Mills](#)  
**Reply To:** [Rita Mills](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Rita Mills  
**Date:** 08/02/2015 07:29 PM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,  
Rita Mills

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Patrice Lester](#)  
**Reply To:** [Patrice Lester](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Templeton MH Facility  
**Date:** 08/02/2015 06:28 PM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be approved for construction.

Sincerely,  
Concerned parents of an adult daughter with mental health issues needing occasional hospitalization,

Jim and Patrice Lester  
2061 Tapadero Ave  
Los Osos, Ca 93402

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)



Dear Ms. Phipps,

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The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely

Julie Woodburn  
1535 Wild Rye Way  
Arroyo Grande, CA  
(805) 680-7882 93420

6225 Lomitas Rd.  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
August 8, 2015

County Planning & Building Dept.  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Rm. 300  
976 Osos St. Suite #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



**To Whom it may Concern:**

**Please consider me as a supporter of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton, Ca. For the reasons outlined in the attached article by Jill Bolster-White, I feel it is vitally important that I express my strong support for the development of both this hospital and the other facility for the memory impaired.**

**Sincerely,**

**Joyce Zimmerman  
(805) 462-1518**

**1 enclosure**

560 Tribune VIEWPOINT 7-1-2015

# Why county should embrace mental health facility



**Jill Bolster-White** is executive director of Transitions-Mental Health Association.

By JILL BOLSTER-WHITE

**A**s a local provider of mental health services, Transitions-Mental Health Association supports the proposed behavioral health hospital in Templeton.

We recognize the stigma that still exists about mental illness, but we urge you to recognize this project as a desperately needed resource for our community. The mentally ill patients who would seek treatment at this new facility are living among us. The question is, would we prefer they be treat-

**Proposed behavioral hospital in Templeton would give us the opportunity to offer support to patients right here at home**

The planned hospital would be a voluntary facility, not a locked or forensic facility. Patients would be admitted by a medical professional or loved one for acute, short-term care and support services. A patient could ask to be released by an attending physician at any time. It would have controlled access and staff, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff would work with patients and their families to enable the

ed or remain untreated? Untreated mental illness can lead to deterioration in one's health and can lead to unfortunate consequences, sometimes with communitywide impact. Mental illness deserves to be seen for what it is: a health condition affecting a person's ability to function, just like so many other physical health conditions for which hospitals and treatment centers exist countywide.

best possible outcome, working toward a transition back into the community as quickly as clinically appropriate.

The hospital project is meant to treat almost anyone: children, adolescents, adults and geriatric people. This will be the only facility of its kind in San Luis Obispo County and will fill gaps currently existing in the county — gaps that cause tremendous difficulty for family members, doctors and the person in treatment.

Please see **VIEWPOINT, B2**

The funding will come from private insurance, managed care companies, Medicare, military plans and other funding sources as available to the level of care. There will be no need for municipal or county funding for the overall project. There will be no need for services from the Templeton School District for the children admitted to the facility, as has been rumored. We fully support plans for the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton and urge you to approve this important community facility.

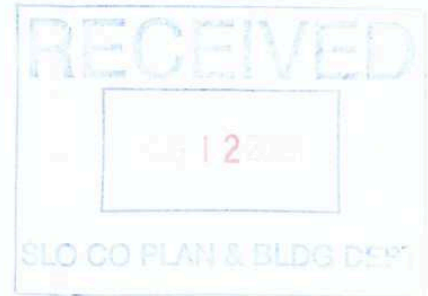
There should be no place in our community where treatment for children, adults and seniors with mental illness is limited due to fear and discrimination. When we have the opportunity to provide quality treatment on par with the treatment for those with physical illness, we should welcome the opportunity with open arms.

## Viewpoint

From Page B1

The San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department transports hundreds of county residents each year to psychiatric hospitals, some as far away as Sacramento. The California Hospital Association projects a need of 138 beds for a county of our size. The proposed facility would consist of 82 primary beds and 8 swing beds. The county Behavioral Health Department currently has 16 beds at its Psychiatric Health Facility, but those beds are frequently full, and are sometimes inappropriate for an acute, voluntary patient or a child in mental health crisis.

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)



Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,

*Barbara C. Melone*  
*3000 Augusta St Apt 230*  
*SLO, Ca 93401*

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300



August 4th, 2015

Dear Ms. Phipps:

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. There is no facility of this kind in our county and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the treatment they need.

My 18 year old nephew had to be transported all the way to Santa Rosa. It has been a nightmare for the family not having a facility near SLO.

Ann Robin, San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Administrator reported recently that she was unable to serve more than 350 patients last year, many of them children. These patients had to be sent out of county to treatment facilities. When patients have to travel, the move presents both a challenge to those providing care and a strain on family members. It is very difficult for family members and loved ones to be part of treatment plans in facilities that may be in LA, Santa Rosa, San Mateo, Ventura or Santa Barbara.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime and will need to seek help. We presently have 16 beds in our county to serve a population of 270,000 people. This is clearly not enough. We have an opportunity to build a facility in our county to serve the needs of the people who live here and need help. **Please do everything you can to help this hospital get built! NO excuses- it must be done**

*Rosley Minkey*  
*Camperminkey1@aol.com*

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us)

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The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Limon". To the right of the signature is the date "8/2/15".

Samantha Limon  
805.345.9798  
541 INGER DR.  
SANTA MARIA, CA 93454

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)



Dear Ms. Phipps,

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The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely

*David Indictor*  
DAVID INDICTOR

August 5, 2015

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)



Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

I am writing in support of the 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed to be built across the street from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. The need for such a facility in San Luis Obispo County is great, and the proposed location of this facility within a hospital/medical resource hub seems ideal. It is important that a behavioral health facility be part of a medical campus so that patient care can be integrated and coordinated for optimal treatment results of the whole person.

With one in four persons expected to experience a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime and one in 12 children, the need for behavioral health care for families in crisis is imperative. Our local County Mental Health facility has had to send hundreds of patients out of county for treatment for lack of beds here. There is no facility in San Luis Obispo County that can provide several weeks of intense in patient behavioral therapy to family members in crisis. The closest facility for adolescents is in Ventura. Children often must go to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital for treatment, creating a huge burden for our local families who must be part of the treatment and exit plans.

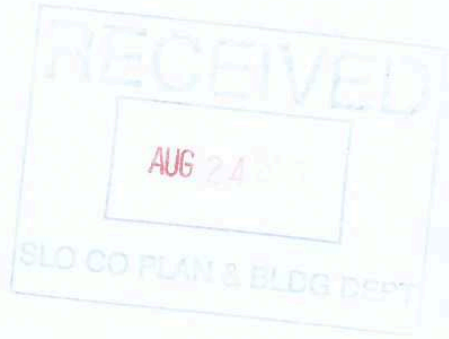
This is an opportunity that our county can not pass up to provide much needed services to underserved children, adolescents and seniors who need immediate mental health care in our county. The property is zoned for this use. The owners are willing to build the facility. This issue is very close to me given that my own mother lives with a mental illness. Please help in any way you can to bring this much needed facility to our families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

  
Heidi Leal

August 21, 2015

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)



Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

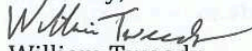
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**My 12 year old son Dylan has a diagnosis of mood dysregulation disorder, ADHD and intellectual disability. The possibility of potential admittance into an inpatient behavioral health hospital has been discussed twice already during his care. The thought of having to travel so far out of the area to obtain this important treatment is very unsettling to say the least. Our family would have to be geographically separated in order to facilitate this type of care for our son. The financial and emotional toll this would take on us would be an extreme hardship. It is critical that a local facility be made available for this type of care for children that suffer from mental illness, as well as adults.**

With one in four persons expected to experience a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime and **one in 12 children**, the need for behavioral health care for families in crisis is imperative. Our local County Mental Health facility has had to send hundreds of patients out of county for treatment for lack of beds here. There is no facility in San Luis Obispo County that can provide several weeks of intense inpatient behavioral therapy to family members in crisis. The closest facility for adolescents is in Ventura. Children often must go to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital for treatment, creating a huge burden for our local families who must be part of the treatment and exit plans.

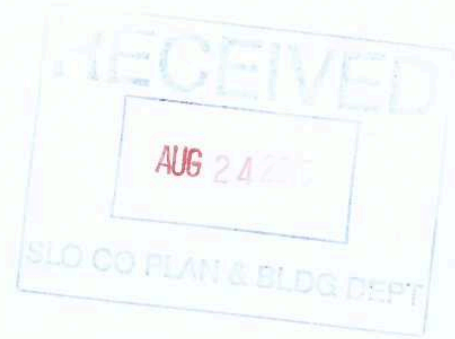
This is an opportunity that our county can not pass up to provide much needed services to underserved children, adolescents and seniors who need immediate mental health care in our county. The property is zoned for this use. The owners are willing to build the facility. Please help in any way you can to bring this much needed facility to our families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

  
William Tweedy

August 21, 2015

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)



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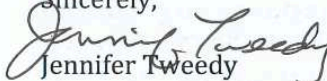
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Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Tweedy

August 17, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
978 Osos St. #200  
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps Rm 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)



Dear Ms Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavior Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in twelve children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the sixteen beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96 bed behavior health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need in their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

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The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "T. Spatari", with some stylized flourishes.

The following is for your information only, not to be passed around please:

T. Spatari  
260 Terra St.  
Morro Bay, Ca. 93442  
[rudetrude@msn.com](mailto:rudetrude@msn.com)

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)



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Sincerely,

Alex Dominguez

2497 Johnson Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Cynthia S. Lamas  
3440 Monterey Rd  
Atascadero, CA 93422

August 26, 2015

SLO County Planning Dept.  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

Dear Ms. Phipps:

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. There is no facility of this kind in our county and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the treatment they need.

I write from personal experience. Our daughter while in high school had to seek mental health care for bipolar illness and bulimia disorder. She was suicidal and the closest treatment center was through Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara. In order to visit her and attend parent group sessions and classes we had to travel 2 hours to Santa Barbara and stay overnight in a motels. She was hospitalized for seven weeks. It was also difficult arranging care for two other younger siblings. After treatment she was asked to attend follow up sessions once every two weeks in Santa Barbara. As I look back on this time of stress I can't help but think how much better it could have been had we had a local county facility caring for our daughter. Her follow up care could have been more consistent. Monetary stress due to distance and cost of meals and motels could have been eliminated. I believe such a treatment facility would have made a difference in her overall recovery.

Ann Robin, San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Administrator reported recently that she was unable to serve more than 350 patients last year, many of them children. These patients had to be sent out of county to treatment facilities, just as my daughter had to. It is very difficult for family members and loved ones to be part of treatment plans in facilities that may be in LA, Santa Rosa, San Mateo, Ventura or Santa Barbara.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime and will need to seek help. We presently have 16 beds in our county to serve a population of 270,000 people. This is clearly not enough. We have an opportunity to build a facility in our county to serve the needs of the people who live here and need help. **Please do everything you can to help this hospital get built!**

Sincerely submitted,

*Cynthia S. Lamas*

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300



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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely

HEATHER DONAGHY  
1521 20<sup>th</sup> St  
OCEANO, CA. 93445

RECEIVED

SEP - 3 2015

PLANNING & BUILDING

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely

Natasha Donaghy  
Natasha Donaghy  
1521 20th Street Oceano CA

RECEIVED

SEP - 3 2015

PLANNING & BUILDING

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely

*Todd Woodland*  
1535 Wild Rye Way  
Arroyo Grande, CA. 93420  
(805) 680-7883

*We'll see you  
October 22  
Thank You!*

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely,



Miles Ley  
10555 Colorado Rd  
Atascadero, CA 93422

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely,

*Marlene Sudeitor*  
9164 Garrison Way  
Atascadero, CA  
93422

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely

*Betsy Macdonald*  
Betsy Macdonald  
45 El Mirador Ct.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely

*Joyce Sandoval*  
*2700 Cienaga #36*  
*Ocean, Ca 93445*

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
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[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely

Abby Beckett  
157 Clarence  
Arroyo Grande, CA  
93420

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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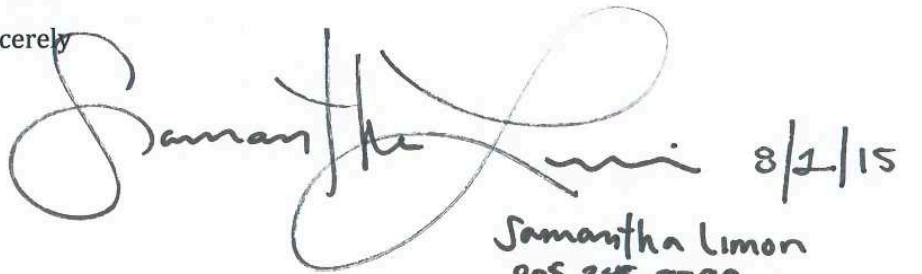
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Sincerely

 8/2/15  
Samantha Limon  
805.345.9798  
541 INGER DR.  
SANTA MARIA, CA 93454

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely



Edward E. Chadwell  
535 mehltschau Rd  
Nipomo Ca 93444

805-471-4290

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
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*Cherish Adrianse*  
Cherish Adrianse  
1998 Tapadero Ave  
Los Osos, CA 93402

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

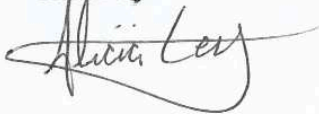
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The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely



Alicia Ley  
10555 Colorado rd.  
Atascadero, Ca.  
93422

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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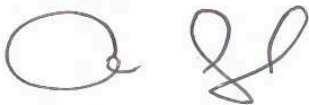
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Sincerely



Ana Schwarz

1521 20th St.

Oceanside, Ca. 92054

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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Sincerely

  
Robert Schwary

1521 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oceano, CA 93445

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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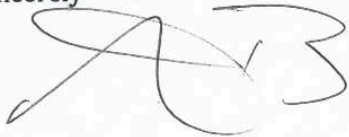
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Sincerely



Anthony Benavides  
1177 Islay St  
SLO CA 93401  
805-462-7971

**From:** [Trisha\\_Oksner](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Support of Mental Health Facility in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/02/2015 03:40 PM

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SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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With one in four persons expected to experience a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime and one in 12 children, the need for behavioral health care for families in crisis is imperative. Our local County Mental Health facility has had to send hundreds of patients out of county for treatment for lack of beds here. There is no facility in San Luis Obispo County that can provide several weeks of intense in patient behavioral therapy to family members in crisis. The closest facility for adolescents is in Ventura. Children often must go to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital for treatment, creating a huge burden for our local families who must be part of the treatment and exit plans.

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Sincerely,  
Trisha Oksner  
Participant, NAMI Family-to-Family Program  
Former Parent Support Group Leader, Central Coast Autism Spectrum Center  
Concerned Citizen  
805-441-4981

**From:** [Tammy Allen](#)  
**To:** [Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Hospital  
**Date:** 08/02/2015 12:38 PM

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

I wanted to send you an e-mail to voice my support for the behavioral health hospital proposed for our county in Templeton. The main positive reasons to approve this project include: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Allen  
1769 Tonini Drive  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
email: [tjgallen@aol.com](mailto:tjgallen@aol.com)

**From:** [Karen Reamer](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/02/2015 10:16 AM

---

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

976 Osos Street #200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

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The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,

Karen Reamer

235 Lark Drive

Paso Robles, CA 93446

[kreamer50@gmail.com](mailto:kreamer50@gmail.com)

**From:** [Charlotte Potter](#)  
**To:** [Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed Hospital  
**Date:** 08/02/2015 10:04 AM

---

Sent from my iPadSan Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Potter

**From:** [Elizabeth Forbes](#)  
**To:** [Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed mental health facility  
**Date:** 08/01/2015 08:44 PM

---

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300 [Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

My brother was diagnosed many, many years ago with Bipolar Disorder with SchizoAffective tendencies. I don't know if you are familiar with having a family member suffer these types of debilitating diseases. It is a very painful, sometimes very difficult thing to walk thru not only for the patient, but for those who are close to them. Thank you so very much for considering this possible mental health facility where, if in a crisis, my brother needed a place closeby (he is a resident of SLO) when the 16 beds were occupied at Co. Mental Health, there would be such a place for us to visit and care for him while he was skillfully cared for by professionals.

Here are some of the main positive reasons I believe the planning department ought to approve this project: the help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; **the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities;** and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a "win-win" situation for everyone. I'm asking you to support this project. We need it.

Thank you,

*Elizabeth Forbes*  
*e4bes@hotmail.com*

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Sandy Farber](#)  
**To:** [hphipp@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipp@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Support of the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 08/01/2015 07:26 PM

---

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

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With one in four persons expected to experience a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime and one in 12 children, the need for behavioral health care for families in crisis is imperative. Our local County Mental Health facility has had to send hundreds of patients out of county for treatment for lack of beds here. There is no facility in San Luis Obispo County that can provide several weeks of intense in patient behavioral therapy to family members in crisis. The closest facility for adolescents is in Ventura. Children often must go to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital for treatment, creating a huge burden for our local families who must be part of the treatment and exit plans.

**My son is 31 and blind. He began experiencing psychotic episodes in his early 20's. He spent 6 years living on the streets of SLO, in and out of the hospitals and in jail. I could not get him help because he didn't want it. People with mental illness can't always seek help for themselves until it is too late. In my son's case he threatened me and my husband and we were able to get him help. It shouldn't have to come to that each time someone needs help. Now he lives in a facility in Greenfield. I feel very lucky that he is only 2 hours away when we want to visit but it would be much better for his well being if he could be closer for the support of his family. I hope that the community steps up and starts to take care of the people around them that need help when they can't always help themselves.**

This is an opportunity that our county cannot pass up to provide much needed services to underserved children, adolescents and seniors who need immediate mental health care in our county. The property is zoned for this use. The owners are willing to build the facility. Please help in any way you can to bring this much needed facility to our families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

Sandy Farber  
Los Osos  
[Socalla3@aol.com](mailto:Socalla3@aol.com)

7-8-15



SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

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\*\*\*

Insert personal story here describing your experience in obtaining local extended treatment for your loved one.

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Sincerely,

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
(NAMI)



SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

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Sincerely,

*Jaelyn Martinez*  
4619 E. Highway 41  
Templeton CA 93465



SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

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Sincerely,

*Amy Martinez*  
4619 E HWY 41  
Templeton CA 93465



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

Mailing Address: PO Box 4210, San Luis Obispo CA 93403  
**TEL** (805) 782-4040 **EMAIL** info@lwvslo.org **WEBSITE** www.lwvslo.org



July 17, 2015

**OFFICERS**

*President*  
**Marguerite Bader**

*1st Vice-President/  
Civil Discourse*  
**Sharon Kimball**

*2nd Vice-President/  
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**Carrie Pardo**

*Communications Director*  
**Nancy Welts**

SLO County Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn. Holly Phipps, Project Manager, Rm. 300

Re: Support for the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County supports a mental health care system which provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages, and we recognize there are currently serious unmet needs that we have an opportunity to address with the proposed behavioral health hospital in Templeton.

1. The 90 bed facility is designed for short-term crisis care and professional treatment with stays between 5 – 10 days. Our county facility has 16 adult beds with a 72 hour stay.
2. Comprehensive services will provide treatment for children ages 6 through 12, adolescents 13 through 18, and adults and seniors with separate units housing the four different age groups. Currently, all ages have limited or nonexistent services.
3. The mentally ill and their families will be able to remain in the county to receive early evaluation and treatment in an acute care hospital setting. The present system sends critically ill patients (350 annually) out of county for such treatment when they most need the close support of their families.
4. The Templeton location is in a planned medical/hospital corridor created in the 1970's by the county as a north county regional medical hub. It is consistent with the General Plan and zoned for medical/hospital use. Coordination of this hospital with other existing medical facilities and services will enable mental health patients to receive optimum medical treatment.

The ability to provide immediate help to families in crisis in our county is possible with this proposal. We urge the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to approve this vitally needed acute care behavioral health hospital on Las Tablas Road in Templeton for the sake of us all.

Sincerely,

*Marguerite Bader*  
**Marguerite Bader**  
President

*The League of Women Voters – not just for women, for everyone!*

RECEIVED

JUL 7 2015

PLANNING & BUILDING

July 3, 2015

JoAnne Stoddard  
2295 Alice Place  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter in favor of, and garnering support for, the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. My husband and I have lived in the Paso Robles area 30 years. We have raised three children, all of whom were born at Twin Cities Community Hospital, and attended school in the Templeton Unified School District. Between our three children, we have been involved in many facets of life in this wonderful community, including, but not limited to, Little League, Youth Soccer, 4-H, Special Olympics and Escuela del Rio. I have also been a teacher in the TUSD for 20 years, teaching all grade levels, K-12, most recently at Templeton Middle and High Schools teaching Choir and Drama. I am now retired from teaching, but am still very involved in north county activities. Our family has a very deep sense of gratitude for the Templeton community, and the network of support so openly shown to almost all who live in this special community.

We must remember that "community" includes the entire whole. With so many successful and positive things happening in the North County, it is easy to forget there are those among us suffering from depression, anxiety, food disorders and a myriad of other behavioral health issues. There are very few SLO county residents who can honestly say they have not been intimately affected by the suffering of a friend, neighbor or family member from some form of mental illness. These people are not criminals, but suffer from common behavioral health issues that need professional and confidential care.

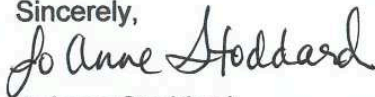
As a middle school and high school teacher, I have had many students through the years that needed mental health treatment and support. Unfortunately, the closest facility was 90 miles away, and accessibility to appropriate treatment nearly impossible for them. In addition, there is a stigma attached to people suffering from mental illness. When you live in a small community such as Templeton, confidentiality is difficult, to say the least. Judging from the many negative Viewpoints recently published in our local newspaper, and the many letters to the Editor in opposition to this proposed facility, the stigma of mental illness has not improved, especially not in our small, close-knit town of

Templeton. Our county desperately needs a regional mental health hospital that can service the needs of our growing population. Many residents in our community are fearful, and are trying to find any reason why this facility should not be built in "their" community. Those of us who welcome the proposed facility are afraid our viewpoint is not being heard. There are many of us who live in the Templeton community that strongly support this project.

The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital will be in a convenient location for north county residents, being located across the street from Twin Cities Community Hospital. In fact, the facility complies with the existing Templeton Community Design Plan and the County Land Use Ordinance. Future patients will be able to receive coordinated and consistent care with minimal time and travel costs. The hospital will provide an additional tax base for the community and school district. It will also provide new job opportunities for our area; jobs that are focused on improving our community by providing needed services.

Please thoughtfully consider the serious need for mental health services in the North County, and approve the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. I thank you for the necessary time in reading and considering this very important and critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Anne Stoddard".

JoAnne Stoddard

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300



Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

I am writing in support of the 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed to be built across the street from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. The need for such a facility in San Luis Obispo County is great, and the proposed location of this facility within a hospital/medical resource hub seems ideal. It is important that a behavioral health facility be part of a medical campus so that patient care can be integrated and coordinated for optimal treatment results of the whole person.

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Sincerely,

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300



Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

I am writing in support of the 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed to be built across the street from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. The need for such a facility in San Luis Obispo County is great, and the proposed location of this facility within a hospital/medical resource hub seems ideal. It is important that a behavioral health facility be part of a medical campus so that patient care can be integrated and coordinated for optimal treatment results of the whole person.

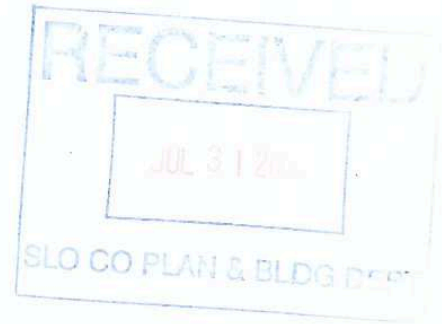
With one in four persons expected to experience a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime and one in 12 children, the need for behavioral health care for families in crisis is imperative. Our local County Mental Health facility has had to send hundreds of patients out of county for treatment for lack of beds here. There is no facility in San Luis Obispo County that can provide several weeks of intense in patient behavioral therapy to family members in crisis. The closest facility for adolescents is in Ventura. Children often must go to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital for treatment, creating a huge burden for our local families who must be part of the treatment and exit plans.

This is an opportunity that our county can not pass up to provide much needed services to underserved children, adolescents and seniors who need immediate mental health care in our county. The property is zoned for this use. The owners are willing to build the facility. Please help in any way you can to bring this much needed facility to our families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

Boutany Lopez

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300



Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

I am writing in support of the 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed to be built across the street from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. The need for such a facility in San Luis Obispo County is great, and the proposed location of this facility within a hospital/medical resource hub seems ideal. It is important that a behavioral health facility be part of a medical campus so that patient care can be integrated and coordinated for optimal treatment results of the whole person.

With one in four persons expected to experience a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime and one in 12 children, the need for behavioral health care for families in crisis is imperative. Our local County Mental Health facility has had to send hundreds of patients out of county for treatment for lack of beds here. There is no facility in San Luis Obispo County that can provide several weeks of intense in patient behavioral therapy to family members in crisis. The closest facility for adolescents is in Ventura. Children often must go to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital for treatment, creating a huge burden for our local families who must be part of the treatment and exit plans.

This is an opportunity that our county can not pass up to provide much needed services to underserved children, adolescents and seniors who need immediate mental health care in our county. The property is zoned for this use. The owners are willing to build the facility. Please help in any way you can to bring this much needed facility to our families and loved ones.

Sincerely,



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

Mailing Address: PO Box 4210, San Luis Obispo CA 93403  
TEL (805) 782-4040 EMAIL [info@lwvslo.org](mailto:info@lwvslo.org) WEBSITE [www.lwvslo.org](http://www.lwvslo.org)

July 17, 2015

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**Nancy Welts**

SLO County Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn. Holly Phipps, Project Manager, Rm. 300

Re: Support for the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County supports a mental health care system which provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages, and we recognize there are currently serious unmet needs that we have an opportunity to address with the proposed behavioral health hospital in Templeton.

1. The 90 bed facility is designed for short-term crisis care and professional treatment with stays between 5 – 10 days. Our county facility has 16 adult beds with a 72 hour stay.
2. Comprehensive services will provide treatment for children ages 6 through 12, adolescents 13 through 18, and adults and seniors with separate units housing the four different age groups. Currently, all ages have limited or nonexistent services.
3. The mentally ill and their families will be able to remain in the county to receive early evaluation and treatment in an acute care hospital setting. The present system sends critically ill patients (350 annually) out of county for such treatment when they most need the close support of their families.
4. The Templeton location is in a planned medical/hospital corridor created in the 1970's by the county as a north county regional medical hub. It is consistent with the General Plan and zoned for medical/hospital use. Coordination of this hospital with other existing medical facilities and services will enable mental health patients to receive optimum medical treatment.

The ability to provide immediate help to families in crisis in our county is possible with this proposal. We urge the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to approve this vitally needed acute care behavioral health hospital on Las Tablas Road in Templeton for the sake of us all.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Bader  
President

*The League of Women Voters – not just for women, for everyone!*

**EDWARD JARDINI, M.D.**

Diplomat American  
Board of Family Practice

Family Practice  
1320 Las Tablas Road, Suite F  
Templeton, CA 93465

(805) 434-0025, Fax (805) 512-7869

June 26, 2015

Ms Holly Phipps

County Planning Department

Re: Support for Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Ms. Phipps

I am a physician board certified in Family Medicine with certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. I have been practicing in north San Luis Obispo County for over 25 years. I am writing to celebrate the addition of a desperately needed psychiatric facility to the existing Templeton medical complex.

I don't have to tell you that mental health is the least recognized and treated aspect of health care in this country. Whether due to prejudice, ignorance, or poor public policy, the mental health care needs of Americans are not being met.

According to the National Alliance on Mental illness, one in four adults experience a mental illness, one in 17 lives chronically with a serious mental illness, and 20 percent of teens suffer with severe mental disorders. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in young adults aged 15-24 years old. But here in the United States, 60 percent of adults with mental illness, and almost one half of afflicted youth aged 8-15 received no mental health services in the previous year.

Despite the common prevalence of serious mental illness and the devastating impact on our society, San Luis Obispo County, your county, with a population of almost 300,000 people, does not have a single public inpatient mental health hospital. This is more than embarrassing; it is tragic.

I have sometimes had to make arrangements for patients from our community to be transported to Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara or Vista Del Mar in Oxnard to receive inpatient treatment of their mental disorders. This creates a terrible strain on family members trying to support their loved ones—who may be very young or old—while they receive treatment in a hospital hours away. Post-discharge outpatient care with psychiatrists based in other counties leads to lost work time, more traffic and pollution, or worse—noncompliance to appropriate follow up and treatment.

The addition of a mental health facility to San Luis County is long overdue. The vicinity to the existing Templeton medical complex is appropriate—if not ideal—as zoning of the site has already established. I reside in Templeton, within walking distance of the proposal, and would welcome the prospect of being able to attend or visit my patients in my own community at the time of their greatest need.

The citizens of our community must have a local, modern inpatient care setting in which to receive treatment of their mental health disorders. To deny this need exists, or to prevent approval due to baseless prejudice further delays correction of a major deficiency of our health care system. Your approval will not only improve mental health in our community, but will undoubtedly save lives.

Thank you, and best of health,

E. Jardini MD

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL IN TEMPLETON

I am writing on behalf of the Justice Task Force of the Atascadero United Methodist Church. We have been studying the proposal to build a behavioral health hospital in Templeton for some time, and have come to the decision that not only is there a crucial need for such a facility in our county, but that the location chosen is the most practical place for such a facility.

The hospital would contain separate units for children, teenagers, adults and the elderly. There is no place in the county that offers such comprehensive care for all ages.

The corridor along Las Tablas and Posada Lane has primary care doctors, specialists, Twin Cities Community Hospital and a pharmacy. It seems ideally suited for the behavioral health hospital and we urge our County Board of Supervisors to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Maggie Fertschneider, Chairman,  
Atascadero United Methodist Church Justice Task Force,  
7600 Santa Ynez Ave., Atascadero, CA  
805-466-3691

1788 Orlen Lane  
Templeton, CA 93465  
E: [pwrl@aol.com](mailto:pwrl@aol.com)  
H: 805.221.5511  
May 6, 2015

By email: [hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

SLO County Planning Department  
976 Osos St., #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

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Subject: Proposed Behavioral Health Hospital, Las Tablas Road, Templeton

We are presently neutral on the proposed project providing that infrastructure and conditions of approval assure the safe operation of the facility and mitigation of local impacts.

1. The County should consult with medical and management experts familiar with this type of facility to assure that conditions of approval and the facilities operational plan meet current best management practices.
2. Mitigation for all local infrastructure impacts should be part of the final approval process if the County intends to approve the project.
3. Of special concern are traffic impacts. Las Tablas is seeing increased traffic. It is not enough to say the traffic impacts are within existing capacity. Every project big or small has incremental impacts. As such, each project should contribute mitigation to offset its incremental impacts. Otherwise, at some point, a future project exceeds existing capacity. However, that project can not be forced to make major improvements that greatly exceed its incremental impact. I have seen this scenario play out many times over my career in California County Government. I believe this project should, as with all other projects, be conditioned to contribute fees or make improvements that will mitigate its impacts now and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Lashbrook

Patricia Watters

**From:** [rg\\_ib](#)  
**To:** [hphippis@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphippis@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed Mental Health Facility in Templeton  
**Date:** 07/29/2015 02:39 PM

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We strongly recommend that the proposed Mental Health Facility be approved for construction in Templeton. Our county is woefully underserved in this area and the lack of such a facility is far more dangerous than any risk to the community this facility would pose. Many tragedies could be avoided if such a place were available. Please take in to consideration that preventing even one suicide, for example, outweighs any risk to the community this place would unlikely have.

Please keep us informed as to the status of this project.

Sincerely,

Mr & Mrs R G Palaoro

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**From:** Vicki Shelby  
**To:** hbezaire@mac.com  
**Cc:** Holly Phipps  
**Subject:** Fw: Contact Us (response #2852)  
**Date:** 06/10/2015 09:31 AM

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Dear Ms. Bezaire,

Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton. The matter will go before the Planning Commission first and that is set to be scheduled sometime this summer. I am forwarding your email to the County Planner handling this project for inclusion into the record.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman  
Legislative Assistant for  
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham  
1055 Monterey St., D430  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408  
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess  
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 06/10/2015 09:29 AM -----

**From:** Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO  
**To:** Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings  
**Date:** 06/10/2015 08:57 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Contact Us (response #2852)  
**Sent by:** Tessa Cornejo

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----- Forwarded by Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO on 06/10/2015 08:57 AM -----

**From:** "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>  
**To:** "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>  
**Date:** 06/10/2015 08:55 AM  
**Subject:** Contact Us (response #2852)

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Contact Us (response #2852)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO  
Page Title:Contact Us  
URL:http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm  
Submission Time/Date:6/10/2015 8:54:20 AM

Survey Response

## ATTACHMENT 10

Name:  
Heidi Bezaire

Telephone Number:  
562-743-5556

Email address:  
hbezaire@mac.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):  
Heidi Bezaire  
1055 Pauline Way  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. There is no facility of this kind in our county and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the treatment they need. This location is ideal, as it is within a greater complex of medical resources where an individual's complete medical needs can be met.

Some of my family members have lived with severe mental illness for decades. We understand the importance of access to acute mental health care.

As a Family to Family Class teacher for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), I see the desperation and powerlessness that local families experience when they are trying to get mental health acute care for their loved one, yet it is not available in our county.

Anne Robin, San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Administrator, reported recently that she was unable to serve more than 350 patients last year, many of them children. These patients had to be sent out of county to treatment facilities. This presents a challenge to those providing care and it is a strain on family members. It is very difficult for family members and loved ones to be part of treatment plans in facilities that may be in LA, Santa Rosa, San Mateo, Ventura or Santa Barbara.

We presently have 16 beds in our county to serve a population of 270,000 people. This is clearly not enough. We have an opportunity to build a facility in our county to serve the needs of the people who live here and need help. Please do everything you can to bring this facility to the residents of SLO County.

Sincerely,

Heidi Bezaire

ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Heidi Bezaire](#)  
**To:** [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Cc:** [rhedges@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:rhedges@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton  
**Date:** 06/10/2015 08:36 AM

---

Heidi Bezaire  
1055 Pauline Way  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

976 Osos Street #200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

Dear Ms. Phipps,

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. There is no facility of this kind in our county and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the treatment they need. This location is ideal, as it is within a greater complex of medical resources where an individual's complete medical needs can be met.

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Sincerely,

---

Heidi Bezaire

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Catherine Deeter, FIX Net, 781-6301](#)  
**To:** [hphipp@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipp@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Cc:** [darnold@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:darnold@co.slo.ca.us); [fmecham@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:fmecham@co.slo.ca.us)  
**Subject:** letter of concern  
**Date:** 06/09/2015 04:05 PM

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Dear Planners and Supervisors,

As a Templeton resident and homeowner of 25 years, I add my voice with many others in strong opposition for the proposed Psych Hospital in Templeton.

Thank you,  
Catherine Deeter

## ATTACHMENT 10

**From:** [Board of Supervisors](#)  
**Sent By:** [Erin Mueller](#)  
**To:** [Holly Phipps](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Contact Us (response #2847)  
**Date:** 06/09/2015 03:05 PM

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----- Forwarded by Erin Mueller/BOS/COSLO on 06/09/2015 03:05 PM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO  
To: BOS Legislative Assistants  
Date: 06/02/2015 10:47 AM  
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2847)  
Sent by: Tessa Cornejo

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----- Forwarded by Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO on 06/02/2015 10:47 AM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>  
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 06/02/2015 10:37 AM  
Subject: Contact Us (response #2847)

---

Contact Us (response #2847)

### Survey Information

Site:County of SLO  
Page Title:Contact Us  
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>  
Submission Time/Date:6/2/2015 10:36:20 AM

### Survey Response

Name:

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):  
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Supervisors:

Most people can agree that we need a behavioral health hospital in our county because we don't have the facilities that we need for our own residents. That's not the problem.

The problem is that this hospital (which keeps people for emergency treatment for 10 days or so) is large enough to handle two or three counties and they will have to keep their beds full to be economically viable. This means that they will be taking in people from other areas of California and since their responsibility to these patients ends at the front door, some will be left on their own after their release in Templeton.

Most patients are picked up by their families. But some will be stuck in Templeton and Templeton has no facilities to help them. The County and County Mental Health have not acknowledged their responsibility to these patients. They have no tentative plan to work with the hospital to transport these people back to their homes or home counties or to shelters or half-way houses.

## ATTACHMENT 10

You only have to look at what has happened in Ventura where they have a large behavioral health hospital (which contracts with Santa Barbara county for beds) for consequences. The homeless mental population has increased in Ventura and has decreased in Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara transports people to Ventura, but do they pick them up after treatment?

MediCal is working on or now covers mental health hospitalization. As this coverage develops, many 5150s will have insurance and CAN and WILL be treated by this hospital (as they should).

So, County Mental Health needs to step up to the plate, investigate the possible problems, provide tentative plans to address the problems (like transportation and aftercare), and reassure the residents of Templeton that they will not be left by themselves to accommodate a growing mentally ill population resulting from the addition of the hospital.

If the County can't or won't take responsibility, then the hospital needs to be limited to a size appropriate and needed for our County residents only.

Thanks,

Lynne Gamble  
lygamble@gmail.com  
Paso Robles

**From:** [Debbie Arnold](#)  
**Sent By:** [Jennifer Caffee](#)  
**To:** [Holly Phipps](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Behavioral Health Facility  
**Date:** 06/08/2015 08:48 AM

---

**Debbie Arnold**  
Supervisor, 5th District  
San Luis Obispo County  
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 06/08/2015 08:48 AM -----

From: Brent Estes <brentlmft@sbcglobal.net>  
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 06/07/2015 09:01 PM  
Subject: Proposed Behavioral Health Facility

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a San Luis Obispo native, mental health professional, and Templeton resident who is in support of the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton. I am a licensed psychotherapist who has offices both in Los Osos and Arroyo Grande. My full caseload encompasses people from the entire County of San Luis Obispo. I work with children, teens, adults and their families. My referral sources are judges, attorneys, schools, churches, medical doctors and various other professionals.

The time is right for the consideration of a facility of this type in our county. We have nothing for children or adolescents who need immediate acute care. So many of these children need a short-term, safe environment to help with distressing thoughts and challenging behaviors as experienced by the overwhelmed family at home. The mental health diagnoses of depression and anxiety with children, teens and their parents is increasing. The unfortunate result for these children is: self-injurious behavior, suicide attempts, sleep deprivation, and eating problems, to name just a few. Many of our county's minors are victims of abuse, domestic violence, horrific trauma/disaster, family loss, etc.... During these times these individuals need a safe monitored environment for short-term emotional support and acute care. They may need a monitored medication observation, assessment or medication adjustment, and/or a behavioral health success plan - that immediate attention cannot be handled on an outpatient basis, the County's Mobile Crisis Team, Transitions Mental Health, or the medical hospitals.

Over the last several years, the Mental Health Parity Act (MHPA) and Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) was signed into law. This law requires medical health insurance to cover mental health care just as it would a medical condition. It can be expected that over the next few years, insurance companies will

have to comply more as this legislation is implemented to a greater degree, meaning that there will be more of a need for these types of facilities. There are medical hospitals in the county for us to go to when we are sick or have broken bones, there is nothing for us when we have broken or damaged emotions. As a county, we do well in offering the private medical facilities/hospitals for physical/medical care, yet we are lacking in the areas of emotional, behavioral, and mental health care facilities for those in need. These two different types of facilities can often complement each other - treating the whole person.

There are two major challenges of a behavioral health facility coming to Templeton. One is that it's location is in the shadow of Atascadero State Hospital. Many locals see this hospital with ASH glasses on. They have a difficult time understanding and differentiating emotional / mental health issues from those with a characterological criminal mindset. This proposed facility will treat individuals, like you and I, (our children, grandchildren), who have medical insurance or cash to pay for the hospitalization. The second challenge, is that this is ultimately a new concept for county residents to embrace. It has been decades since we have had anything of this type here. French Hospital in San Luis Obispo used to have an adult behavioral health unit almost 20 years ago. Once again, there is nothing currently, for insurance paying adults and their children. I am thankful for the other communities and counties that welcome, understand, care for and treat our county's children, teens, and adults on a daily basis. (Most of our children, (age 12 and above), are transported to Ventura County to Aurora Vista Del Mar Hospital, taken away from our county for care.)

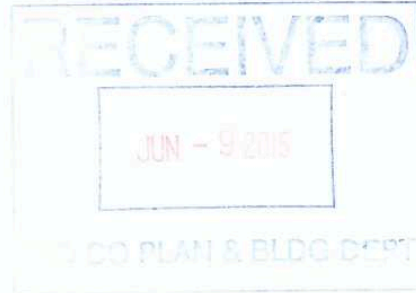
I have heard the concerns from Templeton residents over the idea "these patients" could roam the streets or end up at surrounding businesses and in neighborhoods. Having worked on the treatment and clinical staff of two behavioral health inpatient facilities in Southern California, I have never seen or experienced this to be the case. These folks are not criminals and they just want to go home, much like a patient at a medical-surgical hospital upon discharge. There may be those that also use this proposed facility for treatment, that come from other areas; and I say, "welcome". We welcome out-of-area individuals into our county on a daily basis through tourism, businesses, and our colleges to name a few. Why should this venture be any different? Once again, this comes from a thankful heart to those other places, that over the years, have cared and allowed our residents into their zip codes to get much needed help and come home.

There is a need in our county for this behavioral health hospital. The time is now. I am asking that these ideas be taken into consideration when contemplating your decision.

Thank you for your time and review of this letter,

Brent Estes, LMFT

Carolina F. Pardo  
1415 - 13th Street  
Los Osos, CA 93402



San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

June 5, 2015

Dear Ms Phipps,

I support the construction of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton across from Twin Cities Hospital. There is a serious lack of care for the mentally ill in San Luis Obispo County. It is apparent we need an acute care hospital to diagnose and stabilize our mentally ill. Currently 350 county residents are sent out of the county for this service. This private proposal is being offered to meet this need and the hospital will not be built with any taxpayers dollars. Also, this area is zoned for medical and hospital use.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) one of every four adults in our culture will have mental illness at sometime. The ability to help these people in our county when they are in crisis make our county a better and healthier place for all of us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carolina F. Pardo in blue ink.

Carolina F. Pardo